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Pakistan mediating between Saudi Arabia and Iran

NICOSIA, Feb 7, (Reuters): Iran hopes for early restoration of diplomatic ties with Saudi Arabia through Pakistani mediation, a leading parliamentarian said today.

Saudi Arabia broke diplomatic relations with Iran last April, accusing Tehran of hostility following riots in Makkah during the annual Muslim haj pilgrimage in July 1987.

In an interview with the Iranian news agency IRNA, Sadeq Khalkhali, head of Iran's parliamentary foreign relations committee, praised Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan for efforts to resolve the row between Tehran and Riyadh.

He said he hoped the initiative would succeed and Iran and Saudi Arabia would issue a joint statement.

Indirect

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said last week Tehran was holding indirect talks with Riyadh.

One of the main points of contention between Iran and Saudi Arabia is the Saudi policy of limiting the number of pilgrims attending haj.

The policy was first introduced last year and Saudi Arabia said on Feb 1 it would continue for several years until renovations at holy Muslim sites were completed.

Iran objected to its quota of 45,000 last year, saying it wanted to send 150,000, and boycotted the haj.

Khalkhali said he hoped 150,000 Iranians could make the pilgrimage this year, IRNA reported.

Since the ceasefire in the Gulf war last August, both Iran and Saudi Arabia have said they want to normalise relations.

Sheikh Nawaf to visit Qatar Kuwait buys British training helicopters

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (Agencies): Kuwait today signed a contract with the British firm Short Brothers to buy 16 training helicopters for its Air Force, aviation sources said. They declined to give the value of the deal.

A Defence Ministry statement only said a contract was signed with the firm but did not specify the number of helicopters involved.

Offered

Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed signed for Kuwait. The signing ceremony was attended by Army's Chief of Staff Major General Mazayd Al Sanea and the British Ambassador to Kuwait, Peter Hinchcliff.

Three years ago, Britain and Kuwait signed a similar contract which provided the Kuwait Air Force with a number of Hawk training jets.

Britain reportedly was trying to convince Kuwait to buy Tornado fighter jets, while France offered Mirage 2000.

The Shorts Tucano, based on a Brazilian design, entered service with the British Royal Air Force last September. Kuwait is the second Tucano export customer for the Northern Ireland-based firm, owned by the British government.

The plane is powered by a single turboprop, a jet engine that drives a propeller, and seats a student and an instructor.

Kuwait, threatened by a spillover of the Iran-Iraq war on its borders, last year launched a \$5.5 billion, 10-year arms buying spree designed to modernise its defences.

Sheikh Nawaf has said the purchase of arms would continue despite the Gulf war ceasefire last August. But diplomats said Kuwait was now proceeding with less urgency.

Kuwait's major arms supplier is the United States. The two countries signed a \$1.9 billion deal in July under which Kuwait would get 40 F-18 fighters jets.

Before that deal, France's Mirage F-1 and Gazelle helicopter gunships, and Britain's Hawk trainer and Chinook tanks were the backbone of the Kuwaiti armed forces.

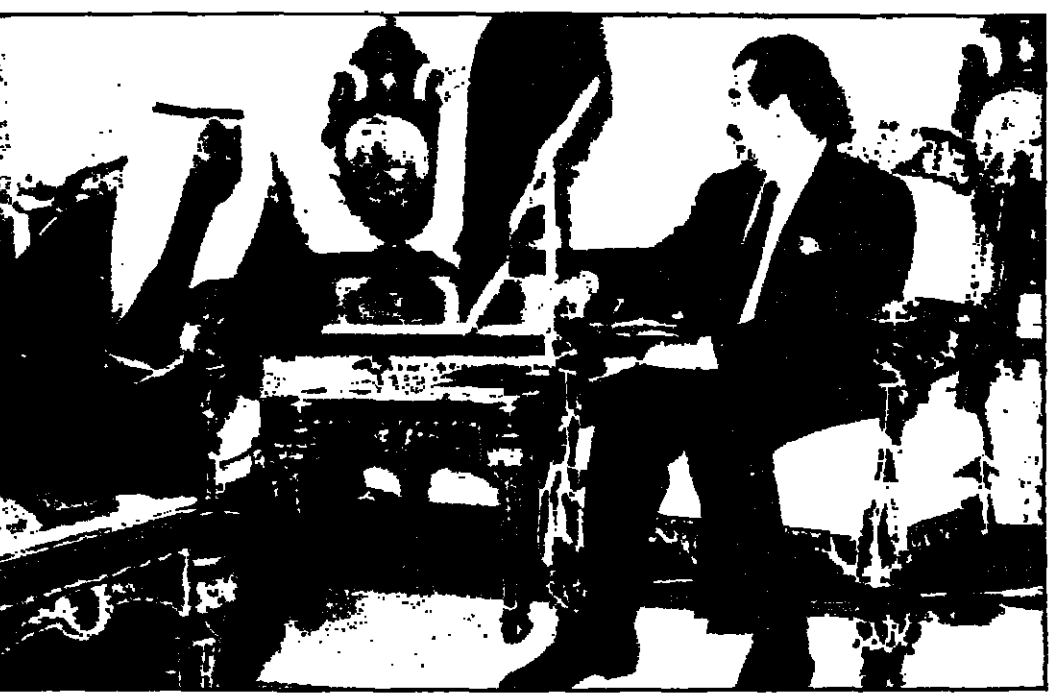
Kuwait's basic anti-aircraft defences comprise US-made Hawk missiles and Soviet shoulder-fired SAM-7 projectiles.

Visit

Keen to diversify arms sources, it also purchased Soviet armoured cars and an Egyptian air defence system.

Meanwhile, it was announced here today that Sheikh Nawaf will pay a three-day visit to Qatar starting Sunday.

He will be accompanied by senior Defence Ministry officials.



HH the Crown Prince (left) in talks with President Saddam Hussein.

Snub to Israel US won't halt direct dialogue with PLO

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (Agencies): The United States has no intention to halt its direct dialogue with the PLO despite a formal Israeli request, according to Radio Israel.

But the Bush administration promised to look into Israel's claim that the PLO had violated the conditions which Washington set for starting dialogue with the PLO, the radio said in a broadcast monitored here by KUNA today.

In occupied Jerusalem a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Oded Eran, political officer at the Israeli embassy in Washington, told US deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ned Walker that an attempted raid into Israel by Palestinian guerrillas violated US conditions that the PLO must renounce terrorism.

Israeli troops killed five guerrillas on Sunday in Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon. The Army said they were on their way to attack civilians in Israel.

In Tunis, the PLO said today the attempted raid was a legitimate response to Israeli operations north of the Lebanese border.

"Everybody knows how many attacks the Israeli Army and Air Force make daily on Palestinian refugee camps and the Palestinian people (in Lebanon)," PLO spokesman Ahmed Abderrahman said.

Kuwait-Iraqi views identical: Ibrahim Sheikh Saad discusses border issue

BAGHDAD, Feb 7, (Agencies): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah today conferred with Izzat Ibrahim, the vice-chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council, on Gulf peace talks and ways to settle a long-running border dispute, sources said.

The sources, who are close to the Kuwaiti delegation but did not wish to be identified further, said the two men held two meetings.

Diplomatic sources have said that Sheikh Saad, will seek to finalise a border demarcation agreement which would end a 28-year-old dispute between the two countries.

Negotiations between the two sides stalled soon after they began five days after the August ceasefire in their eight-year war.

Meanwhile, INA quoted Sheikh Saad as saying that his visit to Iraq is aimed at boosting co-operation in all fields with the brothers in Iraq. He said Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations were based on love, fraternity and understanding which will provide the countries in the region and the Arab nation with more steadfastness to confront its enemies.

KAC plane returns to Athens after bomb threat

ATHENS, Feb 7, (AP): A Kuwait Airways jetliner returned to Athens today after the control tower at Larnaca International Airport in Cyprus received a call saying a bomb was aboard, police said.

The Boeing 727, carrying 41 passengers and nine crew, returned to the airport at 15:40 (1340 GMT), 27 minutes after takeoff, said a police spokesman.

The spokesman said the Larnaca airport tower received an anonymous call saying a bomb had been placed aboard the Kuwait-bound jetliner. The aircraft was scheduled to make a brief stopover at Larnaca.

"We searched the plane for almost two hours and found nothing... it's now being refuelled and is getting ready for take-off again," said the spokesman, who asked for anonymity.

Mujahedeen reach agreement on shura seats Soviet troops emerge from 'hell'

MOSCOW, Feb 7, (Agencies): As the last Soviet troops leave Afghanistan, emerging from "hell" according to Moscow Radio, mujahedeen based in Iran and Pakistan reached an agreement on allocation of seats for their proposed consultative council (shura), reports said.

A huge convoy of armoured personnel carriers and tanks draped in red banners received a hero's welcome in the Soviet border town of Termez yesterday after a hazardous, three-day journey along the mountainous Salang highway from Kabul.

Television last night showed a returning column of Soviet soldiers crossing the border following a "difficult march" home and a Moscow Radio correspondent spoke of troops coming back from "hell."

back. Then he will stop and "deliver a speech" but just to himself. It will last one minute seven seconds. It will not be written down or listened to."

The last Soviet warplane based at Kabul airport flew home yesterday, Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad said today.

Other air units based at Baghram, north of the Afghan capital, completed their withdrawal on Feb 1 and it appeared the last planes based at Shinand, south of the western Afghan city of Herat, had also left, the sources said.

A Soviet official in Moscow confirmed today that up to 15,000 Red Army troops had been killed in Afghanistan, indicating heavy losses during the withdrawal.

A rebel leader promised a blockade of the capital but in Moscow, a senior government official said the Soviet Union would continue to airlift relief supplies to Kabul after its troops complete their planned withdrawal next week.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said Sebzhatullah Mojaaddidi, leader of the alliance of mujahedeen based in Pakistan, "returned to Islamabad yesterday after concluding a deal with Iran-based mujahedeen on the formation of a shura to decide on an interim Afghan government."

Stop

The commander-in-chief of Soviet forces in Afghanistan will be the last Soviet soldier to leave, crossing into the Soviet Union on Feb 15 at 10 am (0500 GMT), Komsomolskaya Pravda reported today.

"On Feb 15 at 10 o'clock local time Lieutenant-General Boris Gromov will be the last to cross the bridge (from Hayratan to Termez)," the Soviet newspaper said in a report from Termez.

"He will pass without looking

Shipment

Meanwhile, in an effort to ease shortages in Afghanistan, 32 tons of medicine, food such as flour, wheat and vegetable oil, and other supplies have been loaded on a Boeing 707 in Islamabad, Pakistan, said Stefan de Mistura of the UN office for humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan.

De Mistura, however, declined to say when the airlift would begin. He said another 358 tons of supplies have been set aside for later shipment.

In New York, a UN official



A caravan of camels loaded with grain enters Kabul along the Jalalabad road. (Reuters wirephoto)

More Indian troops to quit Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Feb 7, (AP): Two battalions of Indian troops will withdraw from Sri Lanka over the next few days, leaving some 40,000 soldiers on the island nation, the government announced today.

The soldiers will pull out by sea from the northern port of Kanakanturay, a government statement said. A Foreign Ministry official in New Delhi, who spoke on condition of anonymity, confirmed the pullout.

The move follows a request by President Ranasinghe Premadasa, who had pledged during his election campaign to seek the withdrawal of the 47,000 Indian troops on the island.

Fighting

Two battalions, or about 3,500 soldiers, moved out within days of Premadasa's swearing-in on Jan 2 and Indian officials said the rest would be withdrawn in phases.

India sent troops to Sri Lanka in July 1987 to oversee an arms surrender by Tamil rebels fighting for an independent homeland. But the troops stayed on to combat the largest rebel militia which reneged on an India-sponsored peace plan two months after it was signed.

Benazir plays down tensions with India

ISLAMABAD, Feb 7, (Reuters): Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said yesterday she was confident that efforts to reduce tension with India would survive a row over Pakistan's development of long-range missiles.

In an interview, Benazir dismissed the exchanges on the missile issue as a hiccup in the normalisation process between Islamabad and New Delhi.

Pakistan confirmed on Sunday it had test-fired its first long-range rocket but denied charges by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv

Gandhi that it had developed the missiles to carry nuclear weapons.

Rajiv warned Pakistan on Friday that India would take steps to protect itself if reports of a missile test were true.

Defusing

Benazir said: "I think the basic motivating force for improving relations and reducing tensions is there on both sides of the border."

"I expect these hiccups will continue for a while but would not necessarily interrupt the momentum towards defusing tensions."

Benazir and Rajiv met during a South Asian summit meeting in Islamabad last December, raising hopes of improved ties between the two neighbours that have fought three wars since independence in 1947.

But political analysts say the threat of a new arms race could revive the old tensions.

Benazir recalled the history of recent tension between Pakistan and India, culminating in the 1987 massing of troops along the joint border.

"It is very difficult to start a new process, and the process of

Defend

"In this situation our people have the right to defend themselves against Israeli aggression," Abderrahman declined to comment on what position the PLO would have taken if the guerrillas, from radical Damascus-based PLO groups, had managed to enter Israel. "We will answer that question when it happens," he said.

The US administration yesterday gave Israel another snub when it refused to accept allegations by Israel and others that Palestinians were involved in the bombing of a Pan Am flight over Scotland last month.

Arabs ready for peace

AMMAN, Feb 7, (Reuters): Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qassem said today the Arabs and Palestinians had demonstrated their readiness for peace and urged Israel to do the same.

"The Arab side has finally come to a coherent position regarding the requirements for peace," Qassem said in an interview. "For a long time people could hide behind Arab negativism, but this time the other side (Israel) is exposed."

He said Jordan's disengagement from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and the PLO's acceptance of US conditions for a US-PLO dialogue had cleared the way for an international peace conference under UN auspices.

"The PLO has clearly accepted a political settlement based on (UN Security Council

US accuses Israel of human rights violations

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (Reuters): The United States, in its 1988 human rights report, accused Israel today of a "substantial increase in human rights violations," mostly involving the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The report, covering 169 countries and prepared by the State Department, is the most detailed analysis of the 14-month-old uprising, or intifada, which has raised serious concerns among American Jews, as well as US officials.

In dispassionate language, the report describes a pattern of Israeli behaviour in the West Bank and Gaza in which Arab freedoms and protections are severely limited and often abused.

The uprising, involving young people "motivated by Palestinian nationalism and a desire to bring the (Israeli) occupation to an end," caught Israeli authorities off guard, the report said.

Amnon Strashnow, said the report, did not account for the security threats facing Israeli soldiers in the territories.

"We have to a large extent succeeded to keep the delicate balance between the necessity of security on the one hand and the rights of individuals on the other hand," he told Israel Radio.

Appeal

He noted Palestinians had the right to appeal charges and expulsion orders to the Supreme Court, and that 8,000 Palestinians arrested have been indicted.

Some 4,500 Palestinians have been detained without trial since the start of the uprising, said Strashnow.

Victims

Israel's Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin says 360 Palestinians have been killed, more than 7,000 wounded and a total of 23,000 arrested during the uprising in occupied territories, the Iltim news agency reported.

Rabin said 30 victims were killed by other Arabs. "They killed more Palestinians than Israelis" Iltim quoted him as saying.

Palestinians killed by other Arabs during the revolt have been suspected of collaborating with Israeli authorities.

Figures compiled by Reuters for the 14-month-old revolt put the Arab death toll at 383 and the Jewish toll at 14.

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○ کابل سے سویت فضاپیہ کا خلا عمل ہو گیا

○ کابل میں طویل محاصرت ختم کی تیاریاں

○ پاک بھارت کشیدگی میں برسرِ گلی ہے نظیر

○ ایران اور سعودی عرب میں مصالحت کی پاکستانی کوششیں

○ شیخ سعد کے عراقی رہنماؤں سے مذاکرات

○ فلسطینی رہنماؤں کو قتل کرانے کا اسرائیلی منصوبہ

○ ادبیات

WEATHER

NORMAL weather with light variable wind changes to light easterly and some clouds will appear.

State of sea: slight

High water: 2.00 pm

Low water: 8.00 am, 8.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.34 am

Sunset: 5.31 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 18°C 64°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 19°C 61°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 1°C 30°F

Ahmad: 5°C 40°F

Falaka: 9°C 48°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 19°C 66°F

Ahmad: 17°C 63°F

Falaka: 17°C 63°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 55 per cent

Ahmad: 60 per cent

Falaka: 60 per cent

Under a timetable agreed by Shiite rivals

Hezbollah set to quit south Lebanon villages

BEIRUT, Feb 7, (Reuters): Iranian-backed fighters are to pull out of villages in south Lebanon on Thursday under a timetable agreed after weeks of bitter fighting with pro-Syrian rivals, Shiite sources said today.

The fighters from Hezbollah will leave Jubah and Ain Buswar and pull back to the villages of Lowaizeh and Jaba Safi in south Lebanon.

The same day, their opponents from the Syrian-backed Amal militia will lift sieges of Hezbollah positions, the sources said.

Signed
At least 142 people were killed in the latest fighting which raged from Jan 1 to Jan 25 and was part of a year-long struggle for leadership of Lebanon's 1.5 million Shiites.

More than 700 people have died in the fighting since last April.

The Shiite sources said a com-

mittee grouping Hezbollah, Amal and Syrian officials had set the timetable for the disengagement under a Syrian-Iranian brokered peace accord signed last week in Damascus.

All roads in the area will be reopened on Thursday and on Friday both sides will free all prisoners.

Amal sources said Hezbollah holds at least 18 of its fighters while Hezbollah says at least 500 of its people are detained by Amal.

Under the accord, all displaced villagers of Iqlim Al Tufah—the region including the contested villages—who fled for safety will return to their homes, they added.

Iran and Syria, who brought the two rivals together, have guaranteed to see that the deal to end the hostilities in Beirut's southern suburbs and Iqlim Al Tufah is upheld.

Syria, the main foreign power

broker in Lebanon, has at least 25,000 troops in two-thirds of the country.

One Shiite source indicated that Syrian troops would be in charge of security in Beirut's southern suburbs and that the military offices there of Hezbollah and Amal would close from Monday.

He said any militia presence would be banned except on the Green Line which separates Christian East Beirut from the Muslim West.

Lebanese Red Cross teams evacuated nine wounded members of Hezbollah and the body of a tenth from the devastated village of Jubah last Thursday in the first step of implementing the Damascus accord.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said yesterday it would resume work soon in Lebanon after a seven-week suspension caused by death threats against its staff.

UN chief sees positive turn in US-Soviet relations

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 7, (Reuters): A more positive turn in relations between Washington and Moscow has produced an unprecedented trend towards disarmament, Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said today.

In a message to the new session of the Geneva conference on disarmament, he said "vast and diverse forces in international life" were at work.

"Relations between the two militarily most powerful states have taken a more positive turn," he said in remarks released here.

"Exchanges on a number of disarmament issues, ranging from the bilateral talks on nuclear and space issues held in Geneva, to the recent agreement in Vienna to begin negotiations on conventional armed forces in Europe, furnish signs of a constructive trend not seen before."

The new year began with an auspicious development in the Paris declaration against the use of chemical weapons, Perez de Cuellar said in urging the conference to accelerate negotiations on that question.

"As the international situation improves, so must the conference as the single multilateral negotiating forum for disarmament meet the challenges before it," the secretary-general said.

"We are witnessing the beginnings of an historic and formative change in international relations."

"Confrontation is giving way to dialogue in many spheres. The provisions of the first-ever disarmament agreement, the INF treaty, are being implemented under verification arrangements which did not seem achievable only a few years ago," Perez de Cuellar said.

The secretary-general said UN involvement in the search for solutions to various regional conflicts was an essential element in the movement towards peace, justice and stability.

Farmers struggle to save citrus crops

Cold weather grips much of US

NEW YORK, Feb 7, (AP): Southwestern farmers struggled to save their citrus crops today as Idaho ranchers searched for livestock smothered in seemingly bottomless snow drifts as a deadly Arctic air mass shattered more weather records across the United States.

Ice covered vast parts of the southeast and Texas, causing power outages, filling hotels and causing hundreds of auto accidents on glassy roads. New Orleans went ahead with its soggy Mardi Gras, but other Louisiana towns decided that this fat Tuesday would be spent indoors.

At least 61 deaths have been blamed on the weather since Jan 31, when frigid air broke out of Alaska.

Searched
With the cold front stopped in its tracks, no immediate relief is expected. The cold continued to plague virtually the entire nation, but especially the western third.

In Idaho, Gov. Cecil Andrus declared a state of emergency

yesterday in rural Clark county, and the National Guard was expected to help ranchers today as they searched drifts as deep as 15 feet (4.6 metres) for buried cattle and sheep.

County commissioner A.B. Laird said he lost more than 600 sheep, 700 cows and dozens of heifers and bulls on his property near Dubois in eastern Idaho.

"They were all young cows, all pregnant, all ready to calve," Laird said.

The Idaho department of fish and game is working to save nearly 500 trumpeter swans that have been unable to feed on a frozen fork of the Snake River.

At least 20 of the swans have died so far. The flock represents a quarter of the species' population in North America.

Damage
In California, Texas and Arizona, citrus farmers fretted as temperatures dropped below freezing in usually temperate growing areas.

"If the weather forecast is correct, we're looking at a high probability of serious damage,"

said Ray Prewett, executive director of Texas Citrus Mutual, a McAllen-based growers' organisations.

Growers brought out smudge pots and turned on giant fans to keep crop-damaging frost from settling. In California's San Joaquin valley, one grower reported temperatures dipping to 19 degrees (minus 7.2 Celsius) yesterday.

Today's low at 0700 GMT was minus 37 degrees (minus 38.3 Celsius) in Craig, Colorado.

The lowest temperature reported yesterday was Logan Canyon, Utah's 54 below zero (minus 48 Celsius). More than 40 record lows were set yesterday. San Francisco had its coldest February day ever: its low of 31 (minus 0.5 Celsius) shattered a 102-year-old record.

Ely, Nevada, recorded its lowest temperature ever—minus 30 (minus 34 Celsius).

Chicago's low of minus four (minus 20 Celsius) marked the first subzero readings of the year there, and helped fill homeless shelters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brain surgery

NEW YORK, Feb 7, (Reuters): A new surgical technique used to treat Parkinson's disease has failed to produce the dramatic cure doctors had hoped for, according to the first multi-centre study of the technique by a group of US physicians.

Pay raise

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (Reuters): The US Congress, buffeted by public criticism of a pending pay raise for its members, will reconsider the issue before today midnight deadline would automatically increase their salaries by 50 per cent.

Velayati met Howe

NICOSIA, Feb 7, (Reuters): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati was delayed in London by bad weather today and will take the opportunity to meet his British counterpart Geoffrey Howe, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

Shark caught

TUNIS, Feb 7, (Reuters): A 22-ft (6.65-metre) Thresher shark has been caught in the Mediterranean off the Tunisian coast where the species has not been seen for 13 years.

Paczki Day

DETROIT, Feb 7, (Reuters): For thousands of Detroiters, Shrove Tuesday is better known as "Paczki Day."

Corruption besets Iran: Montazeri

NICOSIA, Feb 7, (Reuters): Iran's revolution has failed to live up to the promises it made 10 years ago and is beset by corruption and disunity, a senior cleric said in remarks published yesterday.

Iran's designated future leader, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, said selfishness, intolerance, factional interests and lack of professionalism had hurt the Islamic revolution launched in 1979.

"Of course the brave and young revolutionary generation are justified in seeing that there is a big gap between what they have gained and what they were promised," he said.

"If one sees impurity, dishonesty or incompetence he should not be disappointed," said Montazeri, quoted by the Iranian news agency IRNA.

Harshest

His criticism, among the harshest from within the Iranian leadership, coincides with celebrations marking the 10th anniversary of the Islamic revolution.

"We must not rule at any cost," said Montazeri, adding that state power was just a means to realise justice, equality and other human values.

Arabs ready for peace

(Continued from Page 1)

Resolutions 242 and 338 and the right of all in the region to exist in peace and security," he said. "Is the other side ready to accept 242 and 338 which provided for the return of the territories occupied in 1967 in return for a genuine and comprehensive peace?"

Persuade

Qassem said Israel had failed to persuade the world that the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza was a form of terrorism.

He said there was a danger that Israel would try to derail the US dialogue by blaming PLO leader Yasser Arafat for actions by groups he might not fully control.

"The important thing is for the US administration to look in depth at the PLO's on-record interest in the peace process within the requirements of peace in the region," he said.

He ruled out any possibility of a separate peace between Jordan and Israel.

Soviet troops emerge ...

(Continued from Page 1)

Quoting the AAP, or Afghan Mujahideen Press Agency, IRNA said Iran-based Shiite Muslim groups accepted 80 seats in the shura. The total number of seats in the shura has now reached 539, it said, and each of the seven Afghan alliance groups based in Pakistan will be assigned 60 seats. Eighty seats will go to Iran-based groups and 49 seats will remain independent.

President Najibullah's government, determined to retain power, has handed out guns to 30,000 members of his ruling party in Kabul, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Kabul today.

Kitty enters hospital for alcohol treatment

BOSTON, Feb 7, (Reuters): The wife of defeated Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis has entered a hospital for a 30-day alcohol abuse treatment programme.

Massachusetts Governor Dukakis announced yesterday his wife, Kitty, 52, had developed an alcohol problem soon after he lost the presidential poll in November. During the campaign she disclosed her 1982 treatment for a 26-year addiction to diet pills, and said she had not used them since.

Dukakis in a statement announced that she voluntarily had entered a Rhode Island hospital on Sunday and in a later news conference praised her "very courageous" decision.

He told reporters his wife had not had trouble with alcohol before or during his presidential campaign but that a problem arose a few weeks after he lost to Republican George Bush.

Bush stands by Tower

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (AP): President George Bush is standing by John Tower, his embattled nominee to be secretary of defence, and says the former Texas senator shouldn't have to withdraw because of rumours about his personal life.

The confirmation process "is taking a little longer than I would like, and yet I think the Senate has got to do what they're doing—looking at these allegations very carefully," Bush said yesterday.

Bush added that if any rumours or innuendo turn out to be "a substantive allegation of this nature, of course it would concern me."

He said he still endorses Tower, but added, "if somebody comes up with facts, I hope I'm

not narrow-minded enough that I wouldn't take a look. But I am not going to deal in the kinds of rumours that I've seen reported and then knocked down and then reported and then knocked down."

Tower was subject of allegations that he is a womanizer and has a drinking problem.

The administration said FBI investigations of the matter had turned up nothing that would prevent Tower from carrying out his task as head of the department.

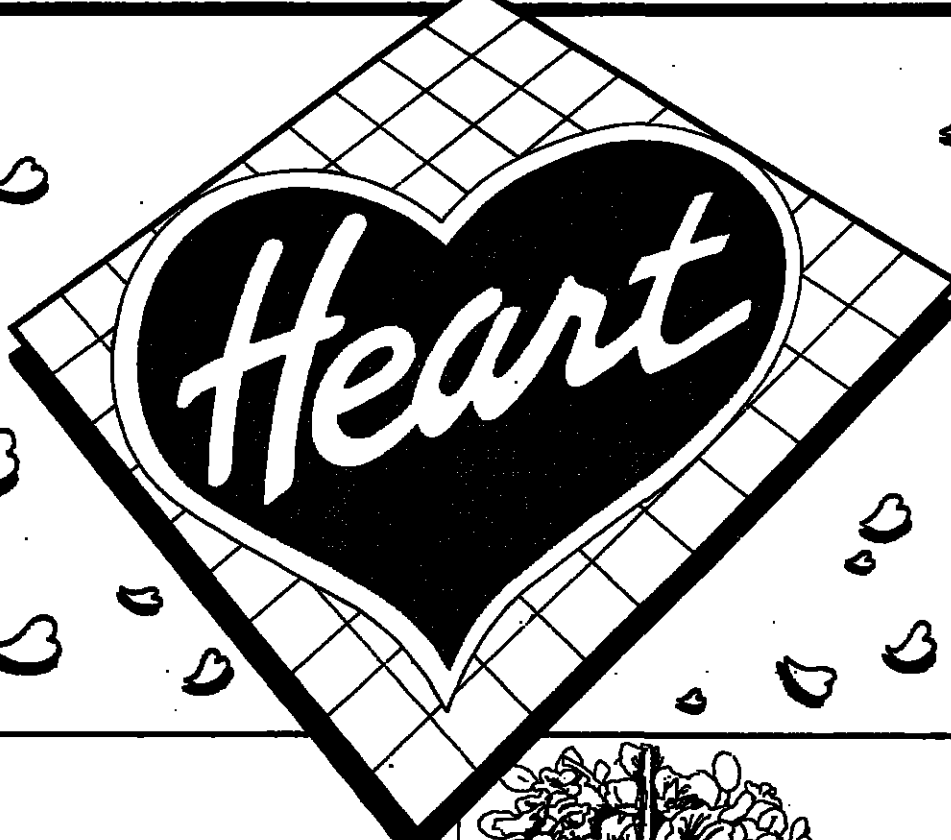
But the Senate Armed Services Committee, which interviews prospective defence secretaries, last week put off a Thursday vote on Tower's confirmation, saying two new allegations came up that had to be checked out.

Death toll

JAKARTA, Feb 7, (AP): The death toll has risen to 26 in the crash of a truck packed with 64 people, the newspaper Suara Pamburuan reported today.

Bingo	Day	10
6	15	8 35

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Kumbh Mela ends without any mishaps

ALLAHABAD, Feb. 7. (AP): Millions of barefoot Hindus from across India jostled and pushed their way to a dip at the confluence of two sacred rivers in the belief the bath would bring them eternal salvation.

An estimated 15 million bathed at river banks in the central Indian city of Allahabad during the day.

Yesterday's bathing was the high-point of the seven-week Kumbh Mela festival, which according to the Guinness Book of World Records is the largest religious gathering on earth.

"The grand show was a grand success," said Ravindra Gupta, the chief administrator of Allahabad, where the Ganges and Yamuna rivers converge. "It was a difficult day for us but it's over."

The official's relief came from the fact that the fair—a logistical nightmare at the best of times—had crossed its climax without any major untoward incidents.

Stampedes and armed confrontations between different Hindu sects have claimed hundreds of lives in previous fairs. In 1954, at least 800 people died in a stampede.

Police said at least four people died during the bathing yesterday.



A Hindu devotee offers prayers on the occasion of the Kumbh Mela festival. (Reuters wirephoto)

Latest casualty in stock scandal

Japan's opposition leader quits

TOKYO, Feb. 7. (AP): Japan's stock-profiteering scandal claimed another casualty today when the head of an opposition party resigned because he made money on the sale of stock in the company at the centre of the controversy.

Saburo Tsukamoto, 61, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party, stepped down amid pressure from within the party where some officials want to distance themselves from the influence-peddling scandal.

Tsukamoto said he was innocent of any wrongdoing, but was quitting for the good of the party.

"I believe my innocence was widely understood by my supporters, but I also could not overlook the fact that some of my colleagues are concerned about the next election," he said, referring to voting in July for half the

seats in the house of councillors, the upper house of parliament.

Tsukamoto bought 10,000 unlisted shares in Recruit-Cosmos Co., a real estate subsidiary of the information-based conglomerate Recruit Co., through his secretary. He earned about 10 million yen (\$77,000) by selling the stock immediately after the company went public in 1986.

Recruit is the company at the centre of the alleged stock-profiteering by Japanese public officials.

Reaction

Reaction to Tsukamoto's resignation varied. The ruling party expressed regret and leftist opposition parties called for the resignations of ruling party leaders tainted by the scandal.

Shintaro Abe, secretary-general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said it was

"unfortunate" that the Democratic Socialist leader was stepping down since Tsukamoto was devoted to his party. But he added he did not expect any negative political consequences to arise as a result.

Takako Doi, chairwoman of the largest opposition party, welcomed the resignation and called on legislators to begin questioning the responsibility of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and other ruling party officials implicated.

Tsukamoto will remain chairman until his party's convention on Feb. 22-23, where his successor will be chosen, and he will retain his nine-term seat in the House of Representatives. His party, with 29 of 512 seats in the House, is the third largest opposition bloc after the Japan Socialist Party and the Komeito, or clean government party.

Some Westerners will be freed soon in Lebanon

France gets pledge on hostages

MANAMA, Feb. 7. (UPI): France has received a pledge from Iran that a number of Western hostages in Lebanon will be freed soon, Kuwaiti government officials confirmed today.

The pledge came after Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said after the departure last night from Tehran of visiting French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas that France made a deal with Tehran last year to secure the release of French hostages, offering in return to free a Lebanese gunman held in a French prison.

Efforts

The Kuwaiti officials confirmed a report carried by Kuwait's official KUNA news agency, quoting diplomats travelling with Dumas as saying he obtained a promise on the hostage issue from the Iranians.

There was no immediate French or Iranian reaction to the Kuwaiti report.

"He obtained a promise from responsible officials there (in

Tehran) that a number of Western hostages held in Lebanon will be released within a short period," the Kuwaiti agency said.

KUNA said the diplomats did not elaborate on whether Americans would be among the hostages it said would be released, and when that might happen. But Kuwaiti officials said the assurances were given as part of mutual efforts to improve troubled bilateral ties.

Numerous reports of the imminent release of Western hostages have yet to prove correct. But Gulf-based diplomats say Iran's rapidly improving ties with Western nations may eventually pave the way to the release of some 21 Western hostages, including nine Americans, held in Lebanon.

The diplomats said the United States asked Dumas, the most senior French official to visit Iran since its revolution ten years ago, to impress on pragmatists in the Iranian leadership the benefits in relations the release of

Western hostages could bring.

They said the United States asked West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher during his visit to Iran last year to intervene on its behalf with the Iranians to obtain the release of American hostages, but with no apparent result.

Offer

"This time, the administration is offering Iran the carrot of improved ties, and all that implies in trade and technological assistance," one diplomat said.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency quoted Velayati as saying, "during the previous talks between Tehran and Paris, Iran had promised to try and secure the release of French hostages in Lebanon and in return France had made some promises for pardoning (Anis Naccache)."

Naccache, jailed in France for life after the attempted assassination in Paris nine years ago of former Iranian Premier Shapur Bakhtiar, recently claimed

France had promised to release him in exchange for Iranian help in securing the release of French hostages.

Velayati's statement about the case was the first official confirmation of the deal. The French Foreign Ministry had no immediate comment on Velayati's statement, though former Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, who played a key role in negotiating the release of hostages from Lebanon, denied that former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac had asked President Francois Mitterrand to pardon Naccache in return for the release of French hostages.

Iran is keen to persuade France, the largest Western supplier of arms to Tehran's enemy Iraq, to halt its sanctuary to opponents of Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini. It would also like to see Paris supplying Iran with equal amounts of the sophisticated weaponry it sells to Iraq, to be paid for by higher Iranian oil exports to the European community.

Malaysian spends two weeks with 100 cobras

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb. 7. (UPI): A 63-year-old man renowned as Malaysia's "snake king" yesterday finished two weeks in a room with 100 black cobras slithering around him, hoping to break a world Guinness record, museum officials said.

Sharum Yub, director of the National Museum where Dastagir Husini has been confined with the snakes, said Dastagir has refused to leave and has not set a date for his departure. Dastagir's son said the public has paid more than \$30,000 to witness the feat.

Dastagir reportedly beat the Guinness record after sharing the 13-by-10-foot (4-by-3 metre) room for nine days with about 100 snakes slithering around him. He initially said he would leave yesterday, the lunar new year ushering in the Year of the Snake.

Dastagir arranged the ordeal in collaboration with the museum's "snake and society" exhibition and has been drawing record crowds since Jan. 24.

Although exhausted from a lack of sleep, a physician deemed him in good enough shape to continue.

Health

"The doctor said my father is in good health except for fatigue," said Hussein, Dastagir's 29-year-old son. The physician prescribed vitamins and recommended more fruit, soup and milk.

Dastagir started out with a bed but hardly slept because the snakes crawled under the sheets for warmth. He had the bed removed and has been dozing in a chair instead.

Officials said the average turnout on weekdays has been 20,000 people while visitors have doubled on weekends. Sharum said ticket sales so far have topped \$30,000. The total will be split between Dastagir and the museum.

Britain to ban sale of human organs

LONDON, Feb. 7. (AP): The government plans to ban the sale of human organs. Health Minister Roger Freeman said today in the wake of disclosures that kidneys were bought for transplant operations at a London hospital.

"It is abhorrent and absolutely disgusting to trade in human organs," Freeman said.

"We are considering very urgently the need for legislation. We are working on a draft bill... we take this very seriously and we want to move quickly."

The General Medical Council, the doctors' disciplinary body, was asked yesterday to investigate allegations that Turks were paid to donate their kidneys for transplant operations at the private Humana Wellington Hospital in North London.

The request came from the Bloomsbury Health Authority, the local government body responsible for health care in the area.

The hospital said its policy was to use organs only from family members and said it had no evidence to support the allegations.

However, the hospital has voluntarily suspended its kidney transplant programme and is reviewing its transplant procedures, said Dr Brendan O'Connor, a member of the authority's inspection team.

Red Cross to resume work in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Feb. 7. (AP): Swiss delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross are returning to Beirut this week to resume humanitarian aid suspended seven weeks ago because of death threats against them, and ICRC official said today.

Two delegates, chief of mission Michael Dufour and spokeswoman Francoise Derron, flew back two weeks ago, and others are expected later this week.

"We still haven't resumed our normal activities because the staffers are still in Geneva," Derron said in a telephone interview from the ICRC headquarters in West Beirut. "This (resumption) is going to be gradual."

"But the first group of delegates is expected this week. We don't know exactly when," she added.

A brief statement from ICRC headquarters in Geneva said last night the all-Swiss agency decided to resume its activities in Lebanon following "assurances given during intensive represen-

tations made in Lebanon and the support expressed by several states."

An ICRC spokesman, Juerg Bischoff, said in Geneva yesterday that 15 delegates will return to Lebanon in stages, starting Wednesday. Later, the delegation will be increased to its former size of 31.

The departure of the ICRC teams from Lebanon on Dec. 20 left no one to look after hundreds of prisoners held by Israel and Lebanese hostages held by the feuding Christian and Muslim militias.

Red Cross officials had been visiting the detainees regularly to deliver messages from their families and to try to improve living conditions in detention centres.

"We still don't have a definite plan (for our activities) right now. It's too early," Derron said.

"But our first activities will be linked to the tracing agency which is in charge of delivering messages, and the resumption of contacts in order to visit detainees," she said.

Japan bans air cargo for funeral of Hirohito

TOKYO, Feb. 7. (Reuters): Air cargo has been banned from all domestic flights in and out of Tokyo's two airports for five days around the Feb. 24 funeral of Emperor Hirohito to prevent sabotage, transport officials said today.

Transport Ministry officials said airlines and cargo companies had been told only emergency items such as medicine would be exempt from the ban, set to begin on Feb. 22.

"We have made the decision in view of the rush of international VIPs visiting for the funeral and to guard against bombs or explosive devices which may be concealed in air cargo by extremists," a ministry official said.

The official said airport security officials would also double check passengers and their luggage on domestic and international flights during the five-day period.

Dozens of heads of state, including President Bush and French President Francois Mitterrand, will be in Tokyo for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito, who died on Jan. 7, aged 87.

Arrest

Police yesterday arrested the leader of an extreme leftist group for alleged involvement in last week's bombing of a shrine closely related to Japan's imperial family.

Eisuo Hokazono, 40, head of the guerrilla wing of the Revolutionary Workers Association (Kakurokyo), was arrested on a bus in possession of blueprints of homemade rockets, they said.

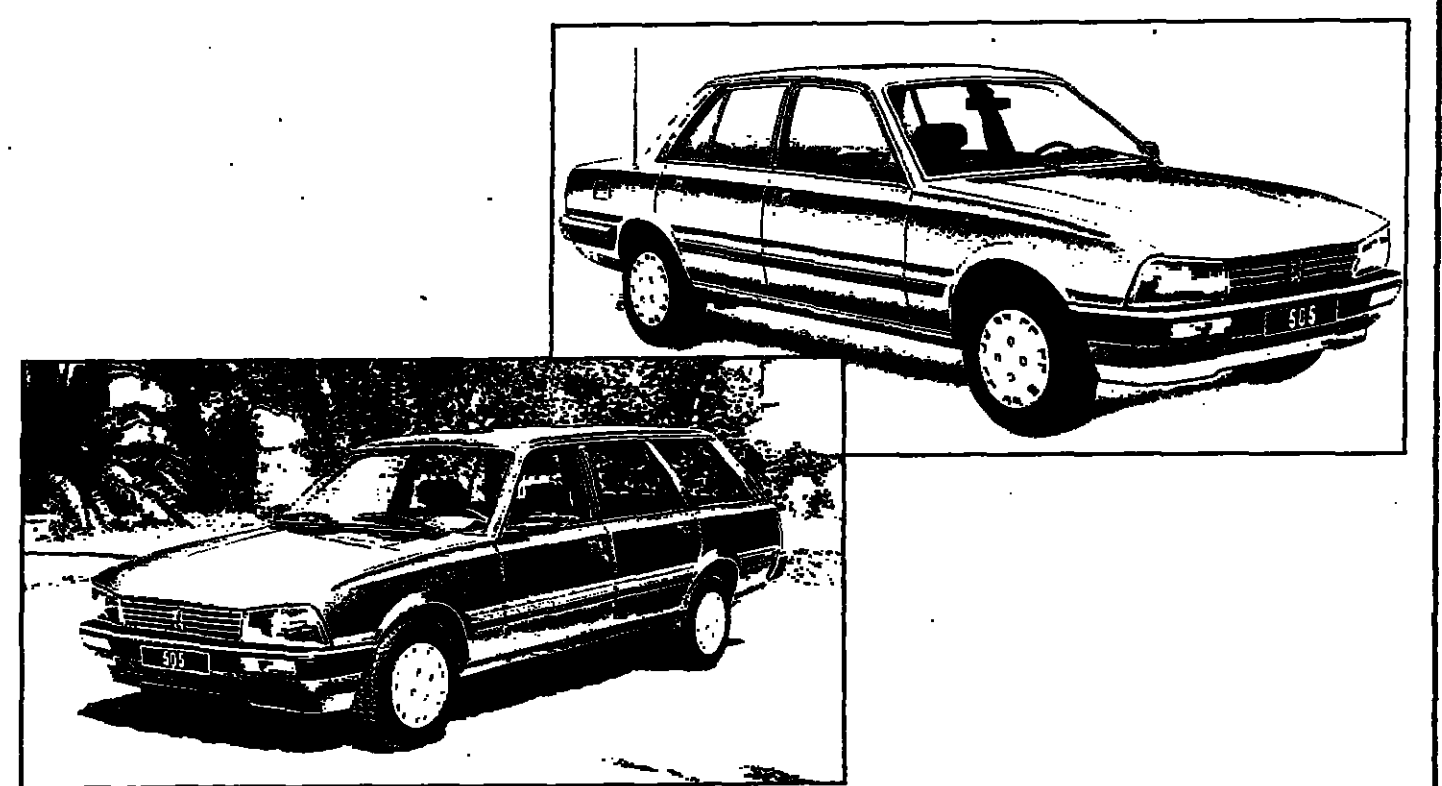
Police have stepped up security throughout Tokyo.

A number of groups have vowed to disrupt the funeral to protest against Hirohito's role in World War Two and against the imperial system itself.

Meanwhile a defence agency spokesman said a cabinet meeting today approved the participation of self-defence force personnel at the emperor's funeral in a Tokyo park.

The participation of soldiers and sailors is controversial because of fears of militarism generated by any military presence in Japanese public life.

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Ophthalmology symposium concluded

By Lima Al Khalafawi

KUWAIT'S Second International Symposium on Ophthalmology which started Feb 4 effectively ended yesterday.

At the conclusion of the symposium, a series of recommendations were made by experts who participated in the symposium.

Dr M. Saleh Sunba, an ophthalmologist at Ibn Sina Hospital told the Arab Times that such recommendations included the need for corneal banks. Blindness from corneal diseases are high in the Arab world. Four such banks — two established in Saudi Arabia and the other two in Cairo will be opening shortly.

A meeting of Pan Arab Ophthalmologists was recommended to be held once every four years to discuss and evaluate researches in this field. A collective effort should also be held in planning symposia of various Arab countries. Better results and meaningful co-ordination were also some of the other recommendations.

Protection
Other recommendations which emerged from this symposium were: the need to protect children from being injured through the use of dangerous toys. Such injuries could lead to blindness, the experts said. The need for formation of super specialists working groups (super specialist doctors) for various parts of the eye such as cataract, glaucoma and uveitis were also mentioned.

During the symposium, 65 research papers were submitted including studies on refractive surgery, cataract, external eye diseases and new methods of treatment in ophthalmology.

Dr Sami Al Rabeah, head of the organising committee of the symposium pointed out that the percentage of blindness in the Arab world is very high due to the lack of health enlightenment among many patients. Most eye diseases are remediable if they are detected in the early stages, he said.

He called for further closer co-operation among Arab countries to make use of eye banks for the benefit of eye patients in the Arab world.

Doctors drop charges against abusive patient

TWO doctors dropped charges against a patient at the local police station in Jafra.

The police officer on duty heard that the patient had abused the examining doctor because he refused to see him when he discovered in his medical file that he was registered at another clinic.

Inquiries into the matter uncovered that the man had been recently discharged from the Ministry of Interior on grounds of mental illness.

New board for science club

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (KUNA): Kuwait Science Club today elected its new board for 1989-1990 term.

Club officials said Engineer Abdullah Abdel Muhsein Al Sherhan was elected president, Adnan Youssef Al Meir vice president, Dawoud Sulaiman Al Ahmad secretary-general, and Zaid Ahmed Al Qowail treasurer of the club.

A general assembly meeting held last night at the club building voted nine members unopposed to the board.

New civil service registration rules

THE Civil Service Commission yesterday announced the formulation of new registration rules to govern the admission of students into the various colleges and faculties in Kuwait University, including Applied Education and Training.

A decision issued to this effect stated that exceptions would be made for students seeking registration, if they were the only mainstay of their family and needed a job. Payment offered is KD2 per hour for a maximum of 12 hours per week.

Under the new rules, students working 12 hours should not have their stipends combined with their social aid, if any, unless their jobs were supplied by the university or college at which they studied.

The beneficiaries from this decision are Kuwaiti students.

Traffic violations

4,828 motorists were fined last month, according to statistics issued by the Ministry of Interior. It added that relevant sentences were issued previously and had been enforced by the Enforcement Department. Apart from the above, the department said 57 motorists were sentenced to several periods in jail on charges ranging from speeding to manslaughter.

Sabah reviews league committee efforts with Lebanese envoy

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (KUNA): Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad today conferred with Lebanese Ambassador to Kuwait Adnan Badra on efforts of the six-man Arab committee on Lebanon.

They reviewed the committee's achieved results so far through the various meetings and contacts it held.

Sheikh Sabah told reporters that he briefed the ambassador on the committee's plan for the second stage during which meetings have been arranged with Lebanese Christian and Muslim leaders in Kuwait late this month.

The Acting Premier and Foreign Minister announced, in

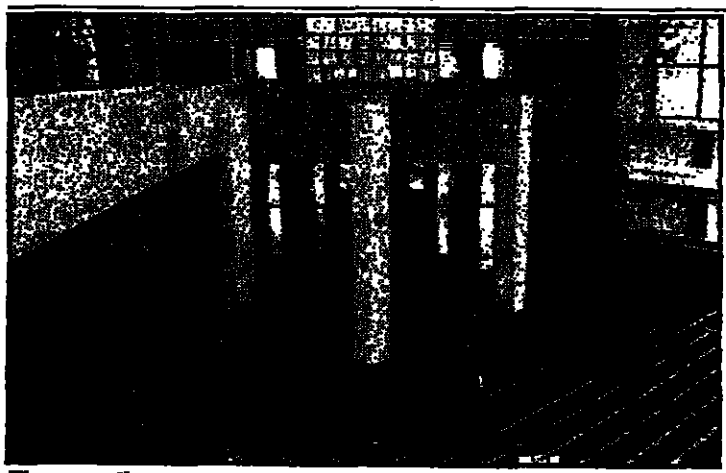
a response to a question, that the Kuwaiti Ambassador to Damascus Ahmed Al Jasssem has left for the Syrian and Lebanese capitals today as an envoy of the committee's chairman (Sheikh Sabah) with messages to those spiritual leaders inviting them to come to Kuwait at the said date.

Those leaders are Maronite Patriarch Mar Nassrallah Sfir, Mufti of Lebanon Sheikh Hassan Khaled, Deputy Head of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council Sheikh Mohammed Mehdi Shamsuddin, Patriarch of Eastern Orthodox Aghapius the Fourth Hazzim, and Patriarch of Eastern Catholics Maximus the Fifth Hakim and Sheikh of the Druze Sect Sheikh Mohammed Abu Shaqra.

School air-conditioning to be completed in five years

AN official source at the Ministry of Education has said that the provision of air-conditioning systems to existing schools will be part of a five-year long plan, prepared in co-ordination with the Ministry of Electricity and

Water. He said that the process would involve the demolition and rebuilding of existing school buildings as well as the reconstruction of the architectural designs of others.



The reception area -

New military hospital to open in May

By Jadranka Porter

KUWAIT'S new military hospital originally scheduled to be opened on the National Day will according to a recent decision begin operation in May due to a delay in furniture and medical equipment delivery.

The impressive 258-bed hospital has been lying empty since last summer when the contractor, Sherikat Al Mabani Al Jahza, completed the building.

The hospital will be more than an apt replacement for the existing somewhat run-down 80-bed military hospital which has been in operation since 1960.

The hospital management led by the director, Dr Abdul Rahman Al Naseem, is now recruit-



Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Naseem, director of the new military hospital, is now recruiting doctors and technicians from Britain and Egypt and nurses from India and the Philippines.

Iraq rejects pre-conditions for resuming peace talks

NICOSIA, Feb 7, (AP): Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said in a letter to the United Nations secretary-general that Iraq rejects any Iranian pre-conditions for resuming peace talks, the official Iraqi News Agency reported yesterday.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, carried the text of Aziz's letter to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, marking six months since de Cuellar announced the Gulf war ceasefire to the UN Security Council last Aug 8.

Aziz flew to New York yesterday, where he and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati are expected to attend a Security Council meeting tomorrow to extend a mandate for the UN ceasefire monitoring force for another 6 months.

Direct talks

It is not clear whether the two foreign ministers will hold face-to-face talks in New York.

Velayati said in Tehran yesterday that direct peace talks will begin soon, but did not give any date.

UN-sponsored peace talks in the Gulf war have been deadlocked since November



Tariq Aziz over the issue of troop withdrawals.

The Aziz letter claimed that Iran was neglecting its obligations under the peace resolution and focussing on one point to the exclusion of others.

He was referring to Iranian insistence that troop withdrawals to pre-war borders should be the next stage in the peace process.

Iraq has refused to pull out its troops from a 259-square mile (1,000-square kilometre) stretch of Iranian territory until freedom

of navigation in the Gulf is guaranteed.

Iraq also wants the Shatt Al Arab waterway, its main outlet to the Gulf, cleared of sunken ships and other war wreckage.

INA reported that Aziz said in his letter Iraq was ready to co-operate with de Cuellar and his special envoy Jan Eliasson in a "constructive manner" to break the deadlock.

Joint committee
Eliasson, Sweden's UN Ambassador, held talks with senior officials in Tehran and Baghdad last month aimed at restarting the peace talks.

As a result of his talks, Iran and Iraq agreed to set up a joint military committee to work with the 350-man UN observer group, monitoring the ceasefire along the 740-mile (1,190-kilometre) border between Iran and Iraq.

Iraq last month unilaterally released 250 sick or elderly POWs and recently reopened Iraqi air space to Iran-bound civilian aircraft.

Tehran and Baghdad have both agreed to join a military working group under the auspices of the commander of the Iran-Iraq UN Military Observer Group General Slavko Jovic.

Waldegrave to visit Kuwait February 14

LONDON, Feb 7, (KUNA): British Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave will start a six-day Gulf tour on February 12 which will take him to Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain, it was officially confirmed today.

The Foreign Office here said that Waldegrave would be in Iraq on Feb 12-13, followed by a similar two-day visit to Kuwait. He will later travel to Bahrain from February 16-17.

The trip forms part of Waldegrave's programme of visits to the region, the ministry pointed out.

Issues

His main purpose is to familiarise himself with the area and strengthen bilateral relations with the Gulf countries.

He will discuss regional issues including the ceasefire in the Gulf between Iran and Iraq, the Arab-Israeli dispute, and efforts to resolve the Palestinian question.

Waldegrave intends to meet senior members of government in each of the three countries.

Meanwhile, British sources said that recent PLO initiatives will be among the main topics of discussion, especially following Waldegrave's recent historic meeting in Tunis with PLO chairman Yasser Arafat.

The UN effort to establish a permanent peace between Iran and Iraq will also feature in the discussions, in addition to bilateral matters.

University plan to computerise court rulings

THE Faculty of Law at Kuwait University is undertaking a feasibility study to computerise all judicial sentences both past and those of the future, according to a university official.

Dr Ahmad Al Samdan from the university said that compilation of this data through computers will assist those interested in undertaking research studies on law.

Stages

The project is intended to be carried out in stages. Initially, data of sentences issued by the Cassation and Appeal Courts will be compiled. If this stage proves successful, the second stage will include entering sentences passed by the Criminal and Misdemeanor Courts.

The computer centre for the project will be situated at the Faculty of Law, Kuwait University. The project is expected to be completed within two to three years, he said.

Expand

He added that the faculty also intends to expand the project by computerising Arab Law Studies.

In a related development, the official said that the old academic system at Kuwait University will be implemented at the Faculty of Law as of the next academic year. The one-year system is better than the American courses system for law studies. The one-year system is being applied in law studies even in US universities, he added.

Accidents

ONE woman died and three people were injured in 17 traffic accidents around the country yesterday. Five traffic accidents were reported in the Capital, two in Hawalli, nine in Ahmedi and two in Jafra.

Bahrain Fair '89 attracts tourism and hospitality industry

THE Bahrain Fair '89, which takes place between Feb 16-26 at the Exhibition Centre, has attracted greater participation from tourism groups and the hospitality industry, according to the organisers, Arabian Exhibition Management (AEM).

"Tourism promotion will be one of the key elements of the fair and the exhibitors in this section include national tourism groups from Cyprus, India, Thailand and Egypt to name but a few," commented Brandon Jennings, chief executive of AEM.

The fair is widely expected to draw more visitors and generate more business than the first one held in January '88, according to some of the major exhibitors participating for the second time. Most of them reported they had received very good exposure and considerable holiday bookings during the ten day show last year.

Targets

"Our participation in Bahrain Fair '88 increased interest in India as a tourist spot and we were able to exceed our targets for 1988 partly due to the interest generated during the fair," said AA Assem of the Indian Tourist Office, Bahrain.

"We are sure of a similar response this year and will be promoting our sight-seeing, shopping and healthcare packages at the Bahrain Fair '89," he added.

A similar sentiment was echoed by C. Nattis of the Cyprus Tourism Organisation who said, "We met over 2,000 potential visitors of the Bahrain Fair '88 and feel that such events serve to boost the travel trade in terms of revenue as well as image."

Sales

Leading hotels, airlines, travel agencies will be among those participating in the fair along with other tourism-related businesses. In view of increasing tourism growth in Bahrain many organisations will seek to focus their sales pitch of visiting tourists from neighbouring GCC countries and expatriate visitors.

One such organisation is Taj Mahal, a leading Bahraini travel agent specialising in promoting Bahrain in Europe and the West. In addition to the tourism section of the Bahrain Fair '89 a large consumer element will also feature in which over 80 Bahraini companies will be offering a wide range of products for sale to the public. Some of these products will include cosmetics, perfumes, ladies fashions, arts and crafts, toys, books, household appliances and utensils, foods and sweets, electrical goods and many more offered at bargain prices.

Bahrain Mobility International is once again the official charity of the fair.

Essay competition on Nehru

On the occasion of the year-long birth centenary celebrations of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Indian embassy, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education, will be conducting an essay competition on the subject: "Jawaharlal Nehru-the first Prime Minister of India."

The competition is open to all Bahraini children in both government and private schools.

Attractive prizes will be offered to the successful candidates in the competition by a number of companies in the island. Prizes will include airline tickets and electronic goods among others.

The essay competition is divided into two age groups: Junior upto 10 years and senior from 11 to 17 years. The language will be Arabic or English. The length of the essay should be 500 words for the Junior Group and 1,000 words for the Senior Group.

Kuwait, Moscow universities sign co-operation agreement

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (KUNA): An agreement on cultural and scientific co-operation concluded earlier between Kuwait and the Soviet Union.

He said today's agreement provides for the exchange of lectures, researchers, students and information between the two universities as well as jointly conducting researches and organising conferences besides other formalities pertaining to such matters.

The visiting delegation had toured several faculties of Kuwait University and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research. The delegation was also received by Higher Education Minister Dr Ali Al Shamlan.

Nasser attends French-speaking nations council activities

PARIS, Feb 7, (KUNA): Kuwait's Social Affairs and Labour Minister, Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Sabah arrived here today to participate in activities of the Higher Council of French-speaking nations.

Sheikh Nasser is among the distinguished foreign personalities who were invited to attend activities of the Higher Council to discuss co-operation between French and non-French speaking states.

The social affairs and labour minister will attend a reception to be given at the Elysee Palace tonight by President Francois Mitterrand to members of the council and participating delegates.

President Mitterrand opened activities of the Higher Council

earlier today under the theme "Plurality of Languages in French-speaking Nations."

Discussion
Sheikh Nasser and the French Secretary of State for International Cultural Relations, Thierry de Beauce, will lead the discussion tomorrow evening in a seminar titled "Arab-speaking and French-speaking: Concurrence or Alliance?"

French and Arab scholars will participate in the discussions which will tackle means of promoting the exchange between the two countries.

Sheikh Nasser is accompanied by Assistant Undersecretary of the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry Sheikh Khalifa Al Dhuai Al Sabah and Chief Editor of Al Arabi magazine Dr Mohammad Al Romaili.

Standardisation of medicine prices called for by consumers

A LARGE section of residents have complained of the high price of medicines and urged officials to take serious steps towards implementing a project for the unification of medicine prices.

According to officials the project will be looked into within the next few months.

A local daily interviewing a number of private pharmacists said the rise is mainly attributed to manufacturers and exporters. These companies export to big markets where their large turnover facilitates low prices.

These companies considered the Kuwaiti market to be small due to the small population. They added that as far as Kuwait is concerned, these companies added to their prices to cover their commercial and advertisement costs.

The general consensus is that a unification and standardisation of medicine prices will be advantageous both to consumers and pharmacists.

Two new specialist clinics

THE director of Jahra Hospital and head of the external medical services at Jahra Health Area Dr Abdul Raouf Jawhari told a local news daily that the area administration will supply new specialist medical services to the public.

The proposed services would include a specialist diabetic clinic at Sulaibiya southern centre, which will be equipped with all the latest technological facilities.

He said that preparations were also underway to open a specialist dermatology clinic at Sulaibiya northern health centre in early March, and the required equipment and medicines would be provided soon.

He called on all people to co-operate with the medical and nursing staff to ensure the successful operation of the new services and help develop the level of these services further.

Administrative development process to relocate staff, says official

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Administrative Affairs Ahmad Al Hameeda said the administrative development process is an important pillar of the ministry's five-year development plan.

He said that the administrative process will not include the termination of ministry expatriate personnel, but would fill existing vacancies and shortages in certain areas by relocating staff in co-operation with the Civil

Service Commission. The procedure among other things is aimed at reducing government redtape, eliminating existing problems, and improving the level of its various services.

Hameeda said that the ministry representative to the adhoc government committee for sorting out of existing functional overlapping among the various government agencies would soon provide the ministry's recommendations.

VIDEO CORNER

Shape up — the Fergie way

By Brian Hollis

FOLLOWING the spate of newspaper articles and photographs showing Fergie before and after her dieting, most women will by now know that the 'in' way to get in shape is *Callanetics*, if possible supervised by Callan Pinckney herself. Instead of violent movements as in jogging and aerobics, she developed a series of exercises based on her ballet training which help tone up muscles by precise movements and contractions. Both her tapes 'Callanetics' and 'Supercallanetics' will be available this week.

Not to be outdone, two of Jane Fonda's workout tapes have also appeared in the shops lately (*The New Workout* and *Workout with Weights*). Many customers have been asking for her tapes over the last two or three years, only to be told that they are banned. However, as she has now changed allegiance from RCA to Lorimar for the production and distribution of her tapes, the newer productions have been given the nod. So no more excuses, ladies!

Cocoon was one of the top box office draws in 1986, so no surprise that the cast has returned in *Cocoon — The Return*. If you remember, at the end of the first part, many of the old fogies decide to go off with the aliens to their planet where time stands still. In the sequel, they return to earth for a holiday when the aliens decide to pop down to pick up a few more of cocoons which they had left behind. The plot is very predictable — a reunion with the friend they left behind, discus-

sion of the various merits of living on earth or on a star, being immortal or temporal etc., with a bit of romance and a bit of suspense (a natural history museum gets hold of and tries to open a cocoon). All amusing enough with the expected class performances from Don Ameche and Wilford Brimley.

Seven Hours to Judgement is a good new suspense thriller starring Beau Bridges and Ron Liebmann. A gang mugs a woman in a subway station and then throws her onto the line in front of an oncoming train. The judge is unable to get enough evidence to send the gang for trial and is forced to set them free — for a second time, even though the husband of the victim has pleaded for one day's stay of execution because he has been promised conclusive evidence from a rival gang. Incensed, the victim's husband kidnaps the judge's wife and then gives the judge seven hours to get the conclusive evidence, failing which he will kill the wife. There are some neat twists and turns in the plot, and some nailbiting moments as the deadline draws nearer.

Relative Secrets is a gentle meandering comedy based in Hicksville, south USA. The central family are the Laidlaws, who are apparently the unluckiest people in town. Dad (Hoyt Axton) returns from the war and discovers his son still hasn't forgiven him for the death of Mom in a car accident. Karen Black plays the unrestrained and cross-eyed Aunt Zelma. The movie swings from slapstick to serious, through family feuds, local rivalries, young

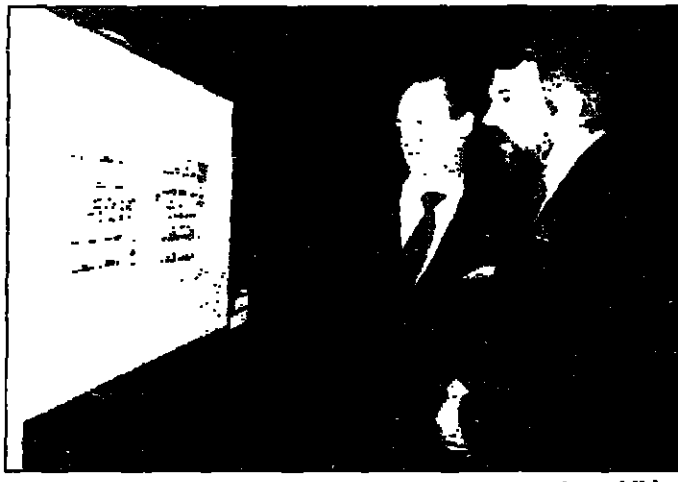
love and war profiteering at a moment's notice, and unless you've got both eyes on the screen, it's hard to keep up with the plot.

Comrades is based on the true story of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, at the time of the repeal of the corn laws in Britain. The leader of the martyrs, George Loveless, also a lay preacher, is driven to strike action by the greed of the local landowner, who reneges on a deal which would give the farmers an extra shilling a week.

The army is called in and the strikers transported to Australia, where they spend several gruelling years before petitions for their release and return home are successful. An all-star cast includes James Fox, Vanessa Redgrave, Michael Hordern and many others, but the pace is slow — this is an excellent slice of film history, not an action movie.

Bestseller fans will revel in *A Fortunate Pilgrim*, a semi-documentary about the life of Sophia Loren, starring herself and directed by her husband Carlo Ponti. Alternatively there is a continuation of *Anne of Green Gables*, the story of a young girl sent to live with her aunt in rural Nova Scotia. A third possibility is *Dad's Death*, the true story of two young Australians sentenced to death in Malaysia in 1985 for drug dealing, and starring Julie Christie as the mother pleading for her son's life.

The above films are by courtesy of VF1, Fintas/Farwaniya; Video Club, Sabmija, and Video Nani, Salmiya Complex.

Karen Black in *Relative Secrets*.

Prince Amin (left) admiring one of the exhibits at the exhibition. David James, curator of Islamic Art at Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, is also seen.

Islamic calligraphy on show in London

AN exhibition of Islamic calligraphy was opened by Prince Amin Aga Khan last month at the Zamana Gallery in London.

The exhibition entitled "Islamic Calligraphy: Sacred and Secular Writings" contains many rare and beautiful examples dating back over the past one thousand years. The exhibits, drawn from Spain, Egypt, Turkey, Iran, India and Africa, have been sent by private galleries.

The tradition of calligraphy started with the earliest written versions of the Quran, in the mid-seventh century, and widely practised between the ninth and 10th centuries, when Arabic calligraphy entered a more codified form. It declined with the spread of printing throughout the Islamic world. Calligraphy, said Prince Amin, enjoyed 10 centuries of un-

interrupted growth and splendour and is a tradition which endures till now among Muslims scattered across the far reaches of the globe.

"The script is a binding artistic and visual medium between Muslims, through the Holy Quran, and also between the various peoples and minorities forming the Muslim umma," he said. Prince Amin believes that calligraphy "constitutes a formal expression of Islam's universality and of its universal aspirations."

The Zamana Gallery, established in 1985 by the Aga Khan, is dedicated to presenting the arts, architecture and culture of the developing world. The exhibition, which has already received much acclaim in Geneva and Dublin, will transfer to Zurich and Amman later this year. It runs in London until March 26.



An example of 'Muhaqqaq script'.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

MORNING

9.00 Holy Quran
9.10 Good Morning
9.15 World News via Satellite
10.00 Abna'a al Diyah: Arabic serial; Starring: Jamil Awadh, Juliet Awadh, Rubi Al Safdi, Iman Kamel.
10.50 News Summary/Good Morning
11.00 Al Daleel: local Arabic serial; starring Mohammad Al Manea, Ayesha Ibrahim
12.00 International Circus
1.00 News Summary
1.05 Holy Quran/Closedown

EVENING

4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.45 Cartoon serial
5.15 Thousand and One Nights
5.45 Ibn Attiya: historical serial; starring Majed Afrouni, Shafiq Hassan, Marcel Marina.
6.15 With Students
7.00 News Summary
7.30 Folklore
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Al Jawaahir: Arabic serial; starring Safa Abul Saud, Salah



Matlock, 8.50 pm, KTV 2.

Saadani, Yusuf Shaban, Mohsina Tawfiq
10.50 Aghniya Fi Al Tamaniyat: variety show
12.30 News Summary
12.35 World News via Satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Transformers: cartoon serial
6.30 Emma and Grandpa: a series for children, based on the story of a seven-year-old girl and her relationship with her grandfather.
7.00 Prestige: "Snow-bound." Two people are caught in a snow

storm and learn to appreciate each other's views.

7.30 Mutual of Omaha: "Valley of the Beavers."

8.00 News in English
8.40 You and the Law: local programme

8.50 Matlock: "The Therapist." The owner of a hospital is killed and a patient is accused of his murder. Starring: Andy Griffith.

9.40 The Cosby Show: "Trust Me." Dr Huxtable has a hard time making up his mind about where to spend his holiday. Comedy

10.10 Feature film: "Vertigo." Starring: James Stewart, Kim Novak. Alfred Hitchcock directs this thriller about a retired San Francisco detective who is hired to shadow an old friend's wife and finds himself falling for her... then tragedy occurs. 1958 production.
12.00 News Summary, followed by Magazine D'Actualite, Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 Newswest
30 Omnibus
0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
25 Financial News
30 The World Today
45 The Sound of Scotland
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Health Matters
30 Citizens
0300 World News
09 News About Britain
15 The World Today
30 Discovery
0400 Newswest
30 Business Matters
45 The Sound of Scotland
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Financial News
45 Words of Faith
0600 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The World Today
30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup
45 How It All Began
1000 News Summary followed by Omnibus
30 Jazz for the Asking

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Baghdad Pharmacy
Abdullah Al Salem St.
Al Sharq Al Jedd Pharmacy
Safat Market
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Ikhlas Pharmacy
Beirut St.
Salmiya and Runaithiya
Al Randa Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahad and Ahmad
Al Khaleej Pharmacy
Mujamma St, F'heel
Khaitan
Al Khaitan Pharmacy
Ibrahim Bin Adham St.
Jahra
Al Nazar Pharmacy
New Commercial Market

English

MORNING
0800 Opening
0802 Songs and Music
0805 Writers and Poets in Arabic Literature
0830 News in English
0840 Songs and Music
0845 Daily Programme
0900 Golden Collection
0930 Album Tracks
1000 Our Press Today
1005 Songs and Music
1030 Music with a Theme
1100 Closedown
EVENING
2100 Opening
2102 Pop Science
2130 News
2145 Point of View
2155 Songs and Music
2215 Musical Celebrities
2245 Daily Programme
2300 Soul with a Beat
2330 Choice of the Week
2400 Closedown

Urdu

1900 Opening/Holy Quran
1910 Behzad Qaul
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Subah-e-Nau
2000 News in Urdu
2030 Songs
2040 Hidayate Rabbani
2100 Closedown

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Youn Mir Youm Heu (Arabic)
Starring: Faten Hamama, Mohammad Muneer
Al Salmiya
Al Zalzala (Arabic play)
Al Hamra
Shaitan Yaghna (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Yaseen, Bosi
Drive-In
Bint Min Dahab (Arabic)
Starring: Shireen, Ahmad Rateb, Mahmood Jundi
Al Firdous
Kaun Kitney Paani Mein (Hindi)
Starring: Mahender Sandhu, Anuradha Patel
Fahad Open-Air
Ganga Jamuna Saraswati (Hindi)
Starring: Meenakshi Sesh-

adhi, Amitabh Bachchan
Al Fahad
Zauj Tah Talb (Arabic)
Al Jahra
A Time for Loving
Granada
Closed
Sulabikhat
Battle of Flying Tiger
Al Jeeb
Delta Force Commando
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.12 am
Zuhr 12.02pm
Asr 3.10
Maghreb 5.32
Isha 6.51

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Ghadir Gallery
Until Feb. 9: "The Orient in their Eyes", a collection of works by a group of Arab and European painters will be shown at the gallery. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Iwan Gallery
Exhibition of lithographs by three 19th century Orientalists. Open from 9 am to 12.30 pm, at the gallery located in Zahra Complex, Salmiya.
Kuwait Society for Formative Arts
Until Feb. 9: The Kuwait Society for Formative Arts will hold the annual general exhibition, displaying art works by Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti plastic artists.

Kuwait Science Museum
DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.
Islamic Arts Museum
SAT — THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.
Arabian Gulf St.
Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT — THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; FRIDAYS: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT — THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts, rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

EXHIBITIONS

Children's Books of the Year '88
UNTIL FEB 16: An exhibition of British books for children, written by award-winning writers and illustrators, will be held at the British Council, Mansouriya.
The programme is as follows: FILMS: Feb 8 (6 pm): Winnie the Pooh and the Blustery Day (cartoon); Feb 15 (6 pm): The Amazing Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (cartoon).
STORYTELLING SESSION: A professional story-

teller will conduct the sessions. Feb 9/16 (9.30 — 10.30 am) a session for children — aged seven to 10; (11 am — 12 noon) stories for children aged three to six.

All are welcome. Free admission. But it is advisable to reserve seats. Tel: 2515512; 2533204; 2533227.

SOCIAL

KAPILU
FEB 10 (Friday, 2 pm — 6 pm): The Association of Filipinos in Kuwait, KAPILU, will hold their first Bayanihan (get-together) at the Church Hall. Free admission and lots of prizes for winners of parlour games and raffle contest. Guest singers will entertain. All Filipinos are welcome. For details contact Sarah Macarimbang Tel: 484-3447.

Goan Show
FEB 17 (3.30 pm, IAC): The Goan community will celebrate the Nehru Centenary by presenting three one-act plays. Bebi and Dodol, an English play by Gerry Rodrigues, and two Konkani plays *Bad Luck* (N.G.O.A.) and *On Credit* (Goan Cultural Society). A variety show will also be presented. For details call 264-4983; 562141.

Gala Dinner
MARCH 9: The Great Ormond Street Hospital Gala Dinner will be held at 8 pm. For details call: 4831339; 539-3151.

FLASSIK
FEB 10: 6 pm: The Filipino Ladies Association in Kuwait, FLASSIK, will hold the 1989 Valentine's Ball at the Holiday Inn's Al Afrah Ballroom.

Kuwait Rondels
FEB 16: the Kuwait Rondels Grand Ball '89 will be held at the Messilah Beach Hotel. For reservations contact: Tel: 5337597.

SPORTS

Ahmadi Kart Racing
FEB 10: Kart racing starts at 1.30 pm at the Ahmadi KOC kart track. Gates open to spectators. All are welcome.

PRAK Non-pro bowling league
FEB 10 (Friday): This week's schedule: 8.30 am — San Juan vs Baguio City; Cavite City vs Quezon City; 1.30 am — Mandaluyong vs Valenzuela, Zamboanga City vs Manila; 2.30 —

Makati vs Caloocan City; Las Pinas vs Parañaque. The tournament has been sponsored by Dollarco Exchange Co and Holiday Inn Hotel.

United Goans Centre
FEB 24: The United Goans Centre will hold their XIth annual league football tournament. The draw will be held on Feb 16. All Kiff-affiliated teams are requested to contact the organisers for registration.

Five-a-Side Football
FEB 17: The Weekend Club will hold their first annual five-a-side football tournament at Al Sour Grounds. The draw will be held on the same day. For entry forms contact M. Dias (OFF.) 2460983.

Laser Sailing
FEB 10: Messilah Beach Laser Club's spring series continues this Friday. Feb 16/17: Messilah Beach open meeting; four race events over two days. All Laser sailors wishing to participate in the above events please contact David Clark: 4845171/2425947; P. Shepherd — 4841513/5314957; P. Berry — 3924174.

Tiviv Centre
MAR 5: The Tiviv Centre will hold its second annual one-day seven-a-side football festival at Al Sour Grounds. This will be followed by their second inter-village nine-a-side football tournament, beginning April 8. For details contact organisers.

Mini Rugby
Training and games every Friday at the Ahmadi ground; training starts at 10 am and mini-Rugby finishes at 11.30 am. For details call Hugh McAree — 532-6368 or Geoff Bennett — 533-2683.

* All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

French film festival

SOME of the latest French films will be shown at the sixth French film festival which will open next week in Kuwait. The festival is being organised by the Cine Club in co-operation with the French Cultural Centre.

French productions from 1986 to 1988 depicting the latest accomplishments of filmmakers in France will be shown. "Our intention is to show the impact of the young upcoming French directors on the film industry," according to a Cine Club press release.
The following feature films will be shown during the fes-

tival:
Feb 11: Family Business, a 1986 production directed by Costa Favras.
Feb 12: Around Midnight (1986), directed by Bertrand Tavernier.

Feb 13: Subway (1986), directed by Georges Lautner.
Feb 15: 1987: The 4 Adventures of Reinette and Mirabelle, directed by Eric Rohmer.

Feb 18: Elsa Elsa (1985), directed by Didier Haudepin.
All films will be screened at the auditorium of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry.



● The Bharati Katal Mandram (BKM), an association of Indian Tamils in Kuwait, recently held a reception to say farewell to their vice-president N. Alwarappan (left), who leaves Kuwait shortly. Picture shows BKM member Thyagarajan presenting a gift to Alwarappan as Raghuraman looks on.

FASHIONWAY

Invites applications for Farwaniya and Fahaheel Stores for the following:

1. Sales Assistants
2. Warehouse staff

Applicants must speak fluent English and Arabic, possess transferable visas and reside near Farwaniya and Fahaheel.

Personal interviews will be conducted on 8th February 1989 between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm at Fashionway/Safeway Farwaniya.

REQUIRED

SALES MANAGER

To work in the field of advertising and printing.

- previous experience is a must.
- transferable residence
- driving licence and a car.

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WHEN men speak ill of thee, live so as nobody may believe them — Plato, Greek philosopher (427 BC-347 BC).

Afghans want fighting stopped

By Kathy Gannon

LOGHARI, Afghanistan, (AP): Azaludin says he doesn't care who rules his ravaged country as long as the fighting stops and the communists fall.

The 37-year-old elementary schoolteacher from the nearby city of Ghazni in eastern Afghanistan is typically of many Afghans who have braved a decade of brutal fighting between communist forces and Muslim mujahadeen, or "holy warriors."

Rebel leaders are fighting for an Islamic Republic of Afghanistan but so far have failed to agree on how to slice any post-war political pie.

"They have had no unity," said Azaludin in an interview. "Each of them wants power. But seven kings or presidents in Afghanistan is impossible."

Fazle Mohammad, an elderly merchant who sells spices and grain from a grimy adobe shop in this small settlement, says he doesn't know one guerrilla chief from another.

"We follow the local mujahadeen commanders," he said.

Sympathy

Fazle said his sympathy for the guerrillas forced him to abandon his original shop in the communist-held centre of Ghazni, about 75 miles (125 kms) southwest of the Afghan capital.

With the Feb 15 deadline for the final Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan drawing near, mujahadeen political leaders have been trying to reach a political consensus.

They have plans for a "shura," or consultative council, to convene on Friday in Pakistan, but its composition remains uncertain.

Those invited include representatives of rebels based in Iran. These mujahadeen belong to the minority Shiite Muslim sect, which comprises about 17 per cent of Afghanistan's population.

The majority of Afghans are Sunnis, as are the Pakistan-based rebel groups. Seven of the most powerful rebel leaders are based in Peshawar, Pakistan. Both sides have yet to agree on their proportional representation on the council.

Hungary warned of social explosion

By Emil Varadi

BUDAPEST, (Reuters): A top intellectual expelled from the Communist Party last year believes Hungary should abandon its "single-party dictatorship" swiftly to minimise the risk of social explosion.

"The transition to a multi-party system should be speeded up," Professor Mihaly Bihari told Reuters in an interview. "We should be thinking in terms of months, a year, but not more than 1.5 years."

Widely seen as Hungary's leading political scientist, Bihari was expelled from the party last April for practising what he began advocating only later: dialogue with new political groups now flowering in a warmer political climate.

Now he has links with the Hungarian Social Democratic Party (HSDP), forcibly absorbed by the Communist Party in 1948 but relaunched by veteran members last November.

Constitution

Since party leader Karoly Grosz ousted veteran leader Janos Kadar in May, Hungary has launched work on a new constitution and plans a return to a multi-party system — though some observers question how much power the communists are ready to relinquish.

Bihari says Hungary needs a coalition of political forces during the transition to avoid what he calls a social explosion or a return to monolithic rule by the party-dominated state bureaucracy.

"The period of provisional coalition would simultaneously be the period for laying the foundations of a competitive multi-party democracy," he says.

That had worked in Spain following the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975, he said. "There, with a transition period of 1-1/2 to two years they managed to create a working democracy after 40 years of one-party dictatorship."

The shura's main task is to name a transitional government that can step into power if mujahadeen topple the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Moscow agreed last April to withdraw an estimated 100,000 from Afghanistan after nearly a decade of stalemate in the country. The Red Army intervened in December 1979 to bail out besieged communists in Kabul who seized power in a military coup the year before.

Mohammad Zai, a 78-year-old former subsistence farmer who now runs errands for the mujahadeen, says that for him, too, politics plays second to peace.

"For me it's not a problem who it is who leads Afghanistan as long as the people like him and choose him," Zai said. "People think, God willing, Ghazni will be free, and there will be an Islamic government, and we can live as we want."

Grab

Fazle said that if individual guerrilla leaders make a grab for power after the final Soviet withdrawal, they will get little support from battle-weary Afghans.

"We just want an Islamic government," he said. "We didn't fight for anybody but God, Islam and our country. Even our small children understand this."

Abdul Raqib, a mujahadeen commander who leads a small rebel commando unit within the Ghazni city limits, concurred.

"When we began our jihad (holy war) we didn't fight for the leaders and parties but for Islam, the liberty of Afghanistan and the people," he said.

And in an indirect slight to noncombatant mujahadeen outside the country, Rahoney Wardak, a rebel field commander, said it is only rebels who actually have fought the war who have the trust of the Afghan people.

"Everything is different inside Afghanistan and outside," he said. In Peshawar, "there is good food, never any bombing and never any helicopters."

"Inside Afghanistan there is a war, with wounded and hungry people," he said. "It is very difficult."

Iran's Army and arms industry provide base for new power

By Eric Hall

DUBAI, (Reuters): Ten years of revolution and eight years of war have left Iran with an Army and an arms industry capable of making it a dominant power again.

Military analysts said that as these two children of the revolution grow, the balance of power will tilt increasingly from Iraq to Iran, jeopardising the fragile peace imposed with the Aug 20 ceasefire in their eight-year Gulf war.

"A durable settlement relies on a balance of power, and that does not exist," said Shahram Chubin, an authority on the Gulf war from the Geneva Institute of International Affairs.

"Time favours Iraq in the short-term, but in the long-term it favours Iran," he added.

The late Shah of Iran, who fled his country's Islamic Revolution in January 1979, created an elitist

Army, strongly reliant on his patronage, on US military advisers and on the arms industry dominated by US companies he built.

Demoralised

The purge of Army commanders and the rise of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards — the armed, ideological spearhead of the revolution — demoralised the regular Army.

Military analyst Nikola Schahgaldian of the US Rand Corporation estimated that desertions reached 60 per cent five months after the revolutionaries took power of Feb 11.

The break with the United States cut off Iran's arms industry from US expertise and spares. Sophisticated US planes lie

mothballed for lack of parts.

But the professional Army gained experience, restored discipline and won prestige in the hard-fought war with Iraq.

"A new, young, war-tested officer class appeared, usually from the lower and lower-middle classes, tied to leading clerics socially... (who) take their role in society seriously," said Schahgaldian.

The Army's new officer corps has little central power and no tradition of coups, making it a powerful tool of the government, the analysts said.

The Revolutionary Guards expanded to become a 300,000-strong force with naval units manning fast Swedish patrol boats, air defence cadres and

control of the national militia.

But the guards lost much of their earlier heroic standing by lack of battlefield success and an apparent readiness to sacrifice the lives of their troops.

Their status was further eroded when Tehran's leaders accused them of corruption and incompetence, analysts said.

The demands of war forced the arms industry to utilise available technology, produce more reliable weapon systems and develop an export industry.

Anoushiravan Ehtashami of Britain's Exeter University, said that at the time of the revolution Iran had four main arms factories. Since 1979 a further 240 plants and thousands of military repair shops have sprung up.

Defence Minister Mohammad Hossein Jalali said in October that arms production had risen threefold since the revolution. Total economic growth has been only around four per cent a year.

Experts attending an international airshow in Dubai last week said Iran was offering for sale abroad military radios, guns, grenades and mortars.

Help

Chinese technicians have been the main source of foreign help, said Ehtashami. Iran has been able to build its own missiles and plans a locally-produced jet fighter.

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, influential parliamentary speaker and acting armed forces commander-in-chief, has said:

"One of the war's blessings is the way our forces have acquired the construction technology and learned the use of different kinds of missiles."

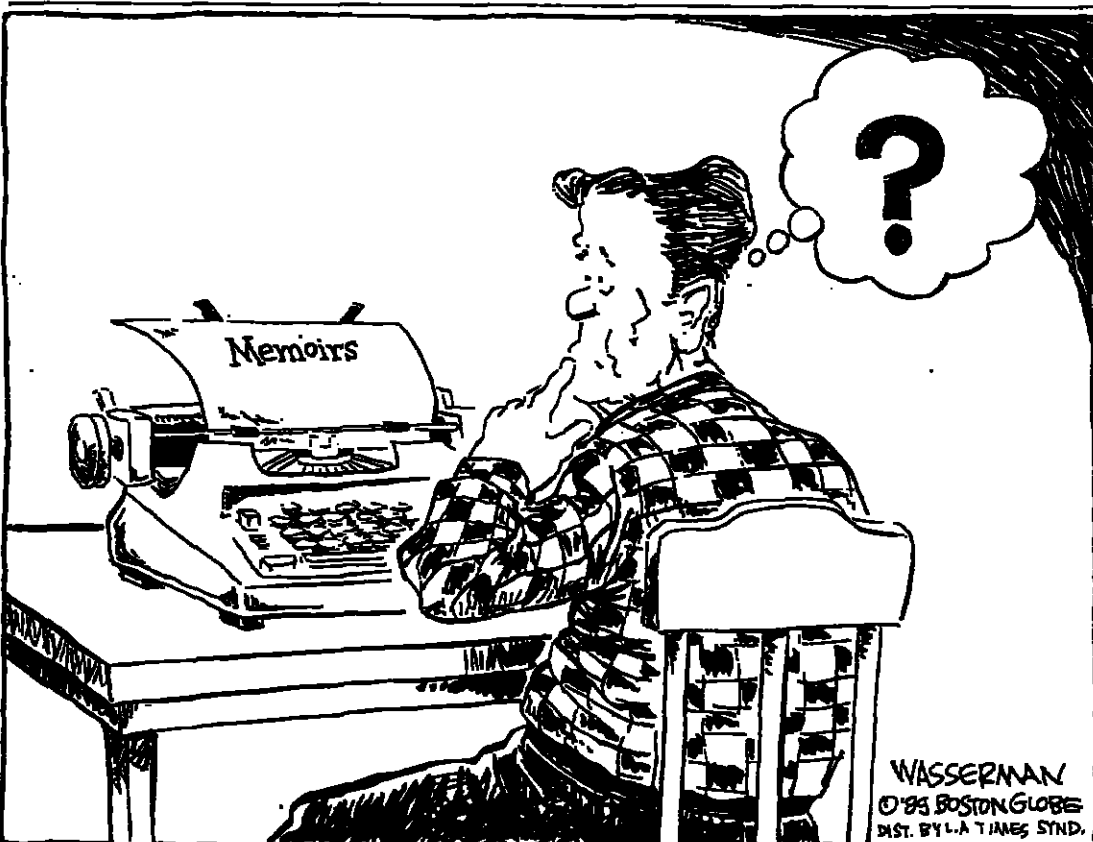
Some analysts believed Iran has been licensed by China and North Korea to assemble its own MIG-19 fighter and is able increasingly to service its old US aircraft.

They said it has agreements with China to produce artillery and West German help with submarine technology and production of a landing craft.

Rafsanjani was last year charged with restructuring both the Revolutionary Guards and the Army.

His ability to dissipate the rivalries and bring the guards and the Army into a co-ordinated structure will largely determine whether Tehran emerges as a dominant power in the region, analysts agreed.

Balance of power may tilt



Quayle shows aplomb on first foreign trip as vice-president

By Gene Gibbons

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Vice-President Dan Quayle, savaged by critics as a lightweight during the US election campaign, has carried out his first diplomatic assignment with aplomb but showed an impetuous streak that could hamper efforts to improve his image.

Quayle, who began a three-day Latin American goodwill trip at the inauguration of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, met 10 foreign leaders during his stay in Caracas last week and generally made a favourable impression.

A senior adviser to President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica said the vice-president had eased concerns by the way he conducted himself.

"The impression we had from TV, newspapers, everyone, was that the guy didn't have experience," said Francisco Aguilar-Urbina. The Costa Rican official added that the reaction to Quayle among people he met in Venezuela's capital was "very positive."

Marks

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, who saw Quayle only from afar, also gave him high marks.

"I thought he showed an

ability to understand the political reality of Latin America," the Washington Post quoted Ortega as saying. "He acted in an intelligent and respectful fashion, and we should recognise that."

Quayle, who turned 42 on Saturday, showed his forceful side during a stop in war-torn El Salvador on Friday where he told military commanders that human rights violations must stop.

He specifically cited a September 1988 massacre in the village of San Sebastian where at least 10 civilians were killed, allegedly by the Army.

Quayle said such incidents jeopardised continued US aid to El Salvador, which has been battling a Marxist-led insurgency for nearly a decade.

Improvement

"He delivered a George Bush two," a senior State Department official said, referring to a December 1983 visit during which Bush, then vice-president himself, lectured Salvadoran leaders over human rights abuses — an act that has been credited with bringing about a dramatic improvement.

But Quayle's debut as a statesman received less public attention than his critical off-the-cuff comments about former

presidents Carter and Reagan at a Caracas news conference.

He scolded Carter, who also attended Perez's inauguration, for meeting Ortega and made a joke at Reagan's expense.

"When you have a former president meeting with heads of state we don't meet with it, it has a chance of complicating matters," Quayle said when asked by reporters if he felt Carter's meeting with the Nicaraguan leader was appropriate.

As he finished the news conference, the vice-president was asked about President Bush's cold.

Sessions

"He's had a laryngitis problem," said Quayle. "Reagan used to use it to not have news conferences but it won't be (an excuse) in this administration."

Bush's predecessor performed poorly in unscripted events like news conferences and held only 49 full-scale question-and-answer sessions during his eight years in office.

"The vice-president meant no harm. He has great affection for Reagan," an aide said. But Quayle is known to regret his impulsive remark.

Staffers said Quayle had no wish to retract his statement about Carter but was somewhat chagrined about the amount of publicity it received.

Reagan busy making money

By Jeff Wilson

LOS ANGELES, (AP): Ronald Reagan left the White House two weeks ago to retire as elder statesman in his beloved California, but instead of lounging around the pool, he's been busy lining up work and visiting places from his past.

The ex-president has signed a book deal worth up to \$7 million, lined up a \$50,000-per-speech lecture contract and opened his Century City offices, where a variety of offers are pouring in.

Sell

There are also social demands: A Feb 23 Palm Springs gala honouring Elizabeth Taylor and a private welcome-home dinner Feb 25.

"The change of address hasn't caused any slowing down of their (the Reagans') schedule," said Reagan spokesman Mark Weinberg. "They are very active and on the go."

Reagan and wife Nancy haven't even taken time yet to visit their Santa Barbara mountaintop Rancho Del Cielo. Rumours they might sell the ranch have repeatedly been denied by the Reagan staff.

Shunning the reclusive lifestyle of many celebrities, the couple often venture from their Bel-Air home to dine at Chasen's, attend Sunday church services or visit friends.

Secret service agents drive Reagan from his \$2.5-million hillside home to Century City, a distance of five miles (eight kms), where he takes a private elevator to his 34th-floor office suite at Fox Plaza and spends about six hours daily at his desk.

Foreign dignitaries dropping in on Reagan have included Ugandan President H.E. Yoweri K. Museveni.

Reagan is apparently fielding offers to sit on corporate boards. He also is being sought for radio, television and motion pictures. Hours after relinquishing the

presidency to George Bush on Jan 20, Reagan told cheering supporters at a Los Angeles International Airport rally that he had been asked to star in a sequel to "Bedtime for Bonzo," the 1951 comedy he shared with a chimpanzee.

"Only this time they wanted me to play Bonzo," he joked.

However, longtime friend Irving "Swifty" Lazar, who said he was working on an unspecified project for the ex-president, dismissed as "ridiculous" the possibility of a Reagan cinematic comeback.

"There are many invitations for a variety of opportunities, but President Reagan has no current plans to appear in any movies," Weinberg said.

For now, Reagan's top priority is his memoirs, a book for Simon and Schuster that the former president promised would be "An honest and straightforward look at where we have been, with some thoughts on where we're going."

UK organisation helping refugees

LONDON, (LPS): A record number of 4530 refugees were helped last year after their arrival in the United Kingdom by British Refugee Council (BRC) advice workers, says the organisation's annual report for 1987/88.

The BRC was set up in 1981 as an umbrella organisation to co-ordinate efforts to help refugees settle in their new country. In November the BRC reached a new grant agreement with the Home Office which has secured its future for two years.

The agreement guarantees a grant for 1988/89 of £451,000 and for 1989/90 of £481,000. In addition, the Home Office is to make two one-off payments of £18,000 for management consultants and £20,000 for research.

In return, the BRC is to work with Britain's statutory authorities to make the services provided fully accessible to refugees, and also to encourage the establishment of refugee community groups for self-help in community development projects.

All four of the BRC advice teams — for Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe — reported a big increase in the demand for their services, which meant they had to concentrate resources on giving initial advice on urgent housing and social security matters.

The value of other help is indicated by the results of the BRC Community Programme. While surveys show high levels of

unemployment among refugees, usually exceeding 50 per cent, almost 70 per cent of those who joined this programme in 1987/88 found permanent jobs or went on to further education.

Their work now includes information science, electronic engineering, secretarial work, office administration, social

work, counselling, librarianship and teaching.

The BRC believes the programme's replacement, the new Employment Training Scheme, could open up still better and broader opportunities, provided refugees are allocated enough work, experience and training places.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1560 — Turkish galleys rout Spanish fleet under Duke of Medina Celi off Tripoli.
- 1587 — Mary Queen of Scots is beheaded after being accused of plotting murder of England's Queen Elizabeth I.
- 1725 — Russia's Peter the Great dies, is succeeded by his widow, Catherine.
- 1807 — Indecisive battle at Eylau, Russia, between France and combined Russo-Prussian Army.
- 1809 — Austria's King Francis I decides on war with France.
- 1872 — Earl of Mayo, viceroy of India, is murdered.
- 1920 — Russian Bolsheviks capture Odessa.
- 1940 — During World War II, German Nazis shoot every tenth person in two Polish villages near Warsaw in reprisal for deaths of two German soldiers.
- 1949 — Eire declares it is unable to participate in Nato while Ireland remains divided.
- 1962 — US military Council is established in South Vietnam.
- 1963 — Rebels in Baghdad, Iraq, assassinate Premier Abdul Karim Kassem who is replaced by Abdul Salam Arif.
- 1964 — Holland's Princess Irene renounces her rights to throne to marry Roman Catholic Spanish Prince, Carlos Hugo of Bourbon-Parma.
- 1974 — Three US Skylab astronauts return to earth after setting record of 84 days in orbit.
- 1975 — Soviet spacemen begin training with Americans for joint US-Soviet Apollo-Soyuz flights.
- 1988 — European Economic Community's 12 member nations deplore Iraqi tactics on its occupied territories as illegal and repressive.

Middle East may gobble up Bush's time and energy

By E.A. Wayne

WASHINGTON: The Middle East will gobble up much of the Bush administration's time and energy, whatever White House desires or priorities.

"We'd all like to sit back and wait for opportunities," a foreign affairs adviser to the Bush team says, "but we can't. The boys in that sandbox will just keep throwing more sand our way until we pay attention."

The stir of the globe stretching from Morocco to Bangladesh is chock-full of demands for US attention. And it's unpredictable.

"The challenge for the new team is to determine which are opportunities and where the trouble is likely to be the greatest," a ranking US official says.

Dispute

"The heartening development," he says, "is that many of the key actors are beginning to realise their limits. They are drawing the distinction between the way the world is and the way they want it."

He and other specialists say the mood is still deeply suspicious and volatile around regional trouble spots. But they see the end of the Iran-Iraq war, the beginning of a dialogue bet-

ween the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the US, and even the re-establishment of a national unity government in Israel as signs of a certain degree of reality emerging over ideology. This gives the United States something to build on.

The top US priority will probably be the Arab-Israeli dispute. Close behind is the still simmering Iran-Iraq conflict. Afghanistan and South Asia demand US attention, as does North Africa, particularly Libya.

But it's not easy to separate one problem from another. "The whole region is interconnected," a ranking US official says. "Terrorism out of Lebanon can be related to the Gulf, to Palestine, or to Libya. The proliferation of chemical weapons and ballistic-missile technology similarly crisscrosses countries and issues."

Indeed, stopping the spread of chemical bombs and missiles will be a top priority of the new Bush team, senior officials and Bush advisers say.

Another area of potential opportunity and importance is US-Soviet cooperation in the region. "The distance between us and the Soviets is still there, but Moscow is showing signs of flexibility and of a responsible approach on the PLO and Syria that we need to explore," a top

official says.

● Arab-Israeli dispute. This remains the most likely Middle East "trigger for a broader confrontation," says a ranking specialist.

"We have a major psychological problem here," a senior US policymaker says. "The Israelis totally distrust any moves the PLO or the Palestinians make. The PLO and Palestinians say they've made enough concessions and it's time for Israel to reciprocate. ... The preoccupation will be how to narrow this gap."

The Washington consensus is that there are no quick solutions. "This will require a long period of stage-setting and pre-negotiations," says a well-placed expert. "It's probably going to be a messy process of subtle manoeuvring on several fronts."

Yet experts queried say it can be worth the White House effort, with a major breakthrough possible several years down the line.

While they agree the US-PLO dialogue cannot be the focus of these efforts, it opens up new possibilities. "We may be seeing the beginning of the de-demonization of the PLO in Israel, and we've undeniably seen something big happen with the Palestinians," says one.

The intifadah (uprising), they say, is likely to continue forcing more pragmatism on the PLO.

"They have to produce results or be left behind by their own constituency" in the occupied territories, one specialist says. The intifadah will also continue to hammer home to Israel the need for a political solution.

A host of related issues — including floundering economies in Israel and Egypt and relations with Syria — will complicate this process. Most troubling will be Lebanon. The chaos there spills out in the form of terrorism and drug trade. US specialists pledge to continue peace efforts for Lebanon, but hold little hope for rapid success.

Danger

● Iran, Iraq and the Gulf. The new White House will consider what to do to ensure the war is not restarted. "There is great potential for danger here," a senior US official says. "It's hard to imagine that the ceasefire has brought an end to the Iran-Iraq conflict. Without movement, there will be a renewed threat as Iran and Iraq rearm and recover."

Washington will also explore ways to turn the US-Iran relationship around. "Is this a time to rethink our priorities with Iran?" asks one top official. "Some think we might unilaterally begin to dismantle some of the trade barriers erected during the war, to test the

waters." But he adds that there is still the question of Iran's domestic politics: Will it allow any reciprocal gesture toward the US? And specifically, what is Iran willing to do to free US hostages in Lebanon?

One idea is that the new administration could have an opportunity to support the UN-sponsored peace negotiations and kindle a dialogue with Iran in the context of a broader US effort to stop the spread of missile technology and chemical weapons (CW) in the region.

"We might be able to help break the cycle of rearming and support the peace talks by trying to start a dialogue about confidence-building measures to prevent the future use of CW and long-range missiles," one well-placed adviser suggests.

Withdrawal

Bush will also have to address the desire of Saudi Arabia and other moderate Arab states to maintain a military-supply relationship with the US. The Saudis are reportedly interested in purchasing M1-A1 tanks and sophisticated aircraft. Bush must determine if he is willing to take the political heat expected from Congress to make such sales and maintain the leverage they give the US.

● Afghanistan and South Asia. If the Soviets complete their

troop withdrawal from Afghanistan by Feb 15 and a new government emerges, the US will take a fresh look at its priorities there.

In Afghanistan, the US administration will have to decide how large a bilateral relationship to have with the new government. Specifically, Washington will be asked to transfer the funds that have been flowing to arm mujahadeen into development aid.

US priorities in Pakistan will also shift with the Soviet threat removed. Officials and congressional aides predict that Pakistan's clandestine nuclear programme will get more scrutiny. Washington can also be expected to give renewed attention to easing tensions between Pakistan and India.

● North Africa. The top priority here will be "the Libya CW-terrorism complex," says a well-placed specialist, with US support for a settlement of the Western Sahara war next in line.

Washington policymakers say they would like to curb Libyan Col Muammar Khaddafi's questionable behaviour by co-ordinating economic and diplomatic pressures with the allies, and even the Soviets. But they predict that Bush will continue to find only weak allied support. The Christian Science Monitor.

Life begins at 40 ... hopefully

By Kathy Cuddihy

MY husband is a kind and considerate person. At least, most of the time he fits that description. Occasionally, however, his actions make me reconsider my impression.

For instance, one of his good points is that he sometimes surprises me with little gifts. Usually these thoughtful gestures delight me. His most recent offering, though, gave me serious pause for reflection.

I certainly don't want to appear ungrateful, but can anyone blame me for not getting excited about receiving a book called "Growing Younger ... Nutritional Rejuvenation For People Over Forty"? For goodness sake, I'm not even forty ... yet.

No doubt the man had my best interests at heart, but the implication is that I look like I'm growing older and he wants to reverse the trend before it's too late. No woman needs that kind of consideration. Besides, as far as I know, I'm not suffering any of the symptoms or ailments which the book alleges are prevalent in the over-40 age group... at least, not yet. In fact, I can hardly even pronounce some of them: transient ischemic attack,

emphysema, diverticulosis, hypothyroidism — plus a host of other indecipherable nasties.

The expression "Life Begins At Forty" used to enjoy immense popularity — especially among people over 40. Now that I get closer to the Big-Four-Oh, is everyone suddenly changing their attitude and admitting that over 40's are actually riddled with defects — real or imagined? What a depressing thought. I mean, if someone can come out with a bestseller on the topic, shouldn't that tell us something — something we probably don't want to know?

So far, I've only read the book's jacket flaps and selectively skimmed a few of the chapters. It is abundantly clear, however, that if I have any of actually "growing younger," I'm going to have to put in some serious effort. Wishful thinking won't do it, nor will simply reading the book. At the very least, I'm going to have to make fairly basic changes, like eating, exercise and attitude. And it seems to me that that doesn't leave a whole lot else to reform.

It's certainly not that I don't eat well. On the contrary, I eat very well,

perhaps a little too well at times. The trouble is, a consistency of quality sometimes lacks.

In amongst all those fresh fruits and vegetables and other bits of unprocessed, fibrous nutrition, I periodically tend to indulge in a few deliciously destructive goodies such as *meringue glace*, or *pate de fois gras* or, in a moment of madness, a piece of Sinful Silk pie with a generous dollop of whipped cream (will I make it through the writing of this article before my inherent weakness causes me to raid the refrigerator?).

Growing Younger not only advises against delightful deviations such as these, but it recommends supplements which hardly serve to titillate the palate: fish oil, activated charcoal, co-enzyme-Q, wheat grass and barley grass. Yuck. I have to admit I have room for improvement, but doesn't this smack of that dreaded word "radicalism"?

I don't fare too much better in the realm of exercise. I don't mind psychologically unobtrusive exercise, such as commuting from one room to another, or something more strenuous

such as pounding pavements in Paris or London, or even a challenging game of tennis. But exercise for the sake of exercise gives me a pain in the neck... at the very least. However, as the book says, at a certain age you have to "use it or lose it." Sheesh! What a choice. There probably isn't a lot of hope for my mind — I think I lost that ages ago — but perhaps it's not such a bad idea to do something to prevent my body from reaching new horizons.

As far as attitude goes, I can't fault myself on that score. Since the experts tell us that age is not a number but an attitude, I figure my attitude places me somewhere in my teens... at least on my better days. Admittedly I experience the odd Day of Doubt, but nothing from which I don't bounce back quickly. Maybe I should give Growing Younger more than a cursory glance. Since my husband is in the Over-40 age group he just might know something that I don't about this business.

In the meantime, I'll continue to enjoy life with robust enthusiasm. And if it really does get better after 40, then I can only hope that at my pace I live to enjoy it!

How do you hold on to your man?

You are with the man of your dreams — but for how long will you stay the woman of his dreams? Our quiz reveals your attitudes, and how successful you will be at keeping him....

By Mary Kemp

It's all dark and handsome, your dream come true. Sometimes you wonder how you ever managed to attract such a man.

But now you have got him, how long will it be before he starts losing interest, "staying late at the office" and coming home smelling of expensive perfume?

So before he even contemplates looking at other women do you go out and buy some lingerie or a bottle of perfume, so you will be well equipped to hold on to your tiger.

Or will you just let him go? Do this quiz and find out ...

1. Your man calls to say he will be two hours late from the office. What do you do?

- Slip into something skimpy and lie waiting on the sheepskin rug.
- Stay up and watch TV so you can eat dinner with him when he arrives home.
- Eat dinner by yourself and leave his in the oven.
- Give his dinner to the dog and go to bed.

2. You look in your diary and see that next weekend is free of engagements. Do you:

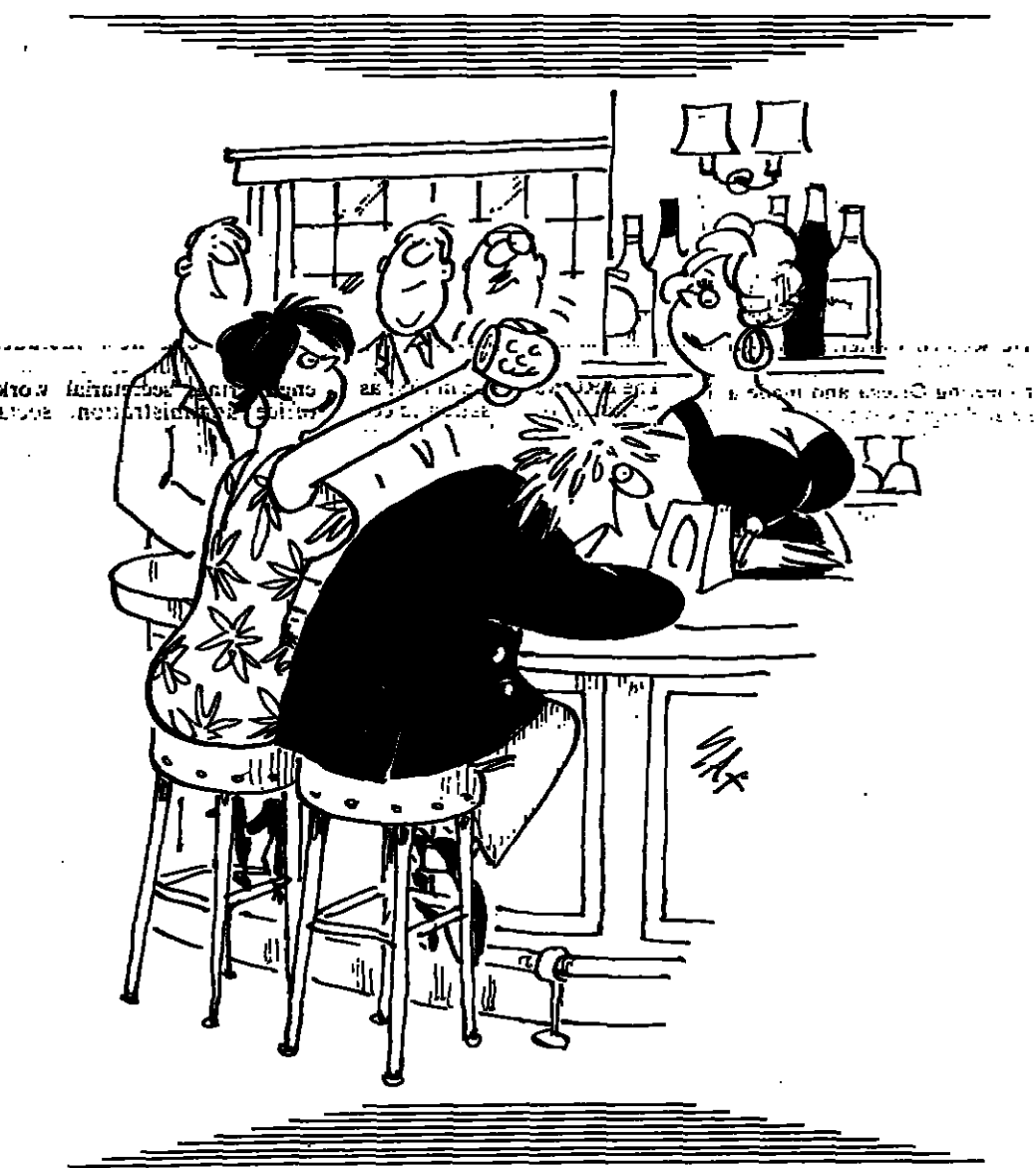
- Plan a cosy weekend eating homemade fruit cake and watching TV.
- Leave it free and hope something interesting will crop up.
- Organise a weekend of spring cleaning the house and washing the windows?
- Book a table at an expensive restaurant for a romantic dinner?

3. While out shopping for the groceries with your man what are you most likely to slip in the shopping basket when he is not looking?

- A tin of dog food.
- A box of dinner candles.
- A bottle of his favourite chocolates.
- A book on herbs.

4. On holiday in Greece your man starts flirting with a busty waitress. How do you react?

- Storm off to your room.
- Pour his glass of water over



his head.

c. Giggles and encourage him.

d. Promise yourself as soon as you get home you will join an exercise class.

5. Your man has to take a packed lunch of sandwiches to work. What fillings would you choose?

- Cheese and pickle.
- Butter.
- Avocado and prawn.
- Smoked salmon and cream cheese.

6. You are offered a job where you would earn more than your man. Would you:

- Immediately accept it?
- First discuss it with him to see how he felt?
- Say yes and then break the news to him gently?
- Turn it down for fear it might damage his ego?

7. In choosing a new car, you want something practical for the shopping while he wants a flashy car. What would you do?

- Compromise and buy a sports saloon.
- Give in and let him choose the car.
- Buy the one you want.
- Suggest you keep the old car

and buy a couple of bicycles.

8. Your man has to stay home in bed with the flu. Do you:

- Tell him to stop moaning?
- Go to work and tell him you will call him later on?
- Take the day off and snuggle up in bed with him.
- Tuck him in with a hot water bottle and a couple of aspirins.

9. It is a lovely evening and you want to go for a walk but your man wants to stay inside and watch the wrestling. What do you do?

- Grab your rattle and draw up a chair beside him.
- Sulk and not cook him any dinner.
- Leave him and go for a walk by yourself.
- Keep talking as loud as you can throughout the match.

10. You have both overslept and he asks you to iron his shirt otherwise he'll be late to work. What is your reaction?

- Throw his shirt in his face and tell him to do it himself.
- Do the ironing for him.
- Explain that you are late too and you haven't got time.
- Quickly iron the sleeves and

the front of the shirt.

11. Your mother suggests you spend the weekend with her. What do you decide?

- Let her take the children and spend a romantic weekend with your man.
- Ask your man what he would rather do.
- Leap at a chance.
- Compromise and just spend the day with her.

12. Your man gives you some money to spend on clothes. What do you buy?

- A sensible dress.
- A pair of walking shoes.
- Some sexy lingerie.
- A tight black leather dress.

13. Your man asks you to suggest how he and his men friends should spend the evening. What do you tell him?

- Go out for a meal.
- Go and watch a soppy film.
- Paint the town red.
- Go and play a game of poker.

14. What surprise present would you buy him for his birthday?

- An expensive watch.
- Some cheap aftershave.
- A book of steam trains.
- A silk shirt.

How to score

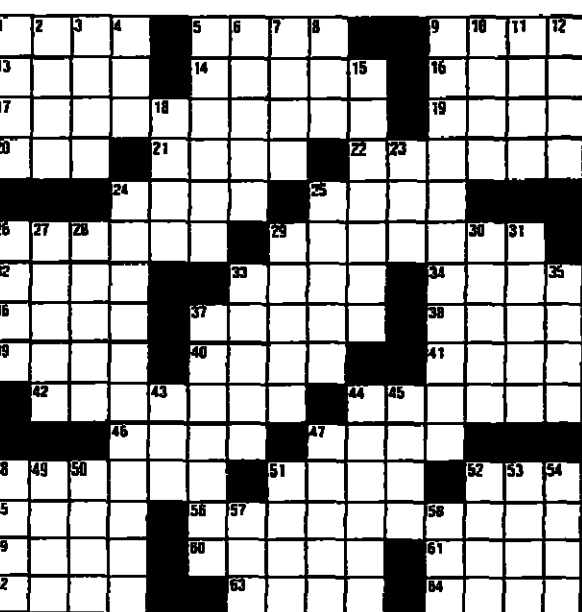
	a	b	c	d
1.	3	2	1	0
2.	3	2	1	0
3.	0	1	2	3
4.	0	1	2	3
5.	1	0	2	3
6.	0	2	1	3
7.	2	3	0	1
8.	0	1	3	2
9.	3	1	2	0
10.	0	3	1	2
11.	3	2	0	1
12.	1	0	3	2
13.	1	0	3	2
14.	3	1	0	2

0-12: You might have found this quiz needed a lot of imagination as you probably haven't even got a wisp, let alone a tiger to hold onto. And the way you are going the future looks very dull indeed. Go on, be a devil! Buy yourself

some black stockings and go and flaunt yourself.

12-27: Lucky you — you have the perfect partnership. You know just how much to give and take to make your man happy and contented. And you enjoy the occasional wild night out and treat too.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Mitchell mansion
 - Room in a casa
 - Actress
 - Hayworth
 - Winglike
 - Harbor features
 - Norse god
 - "McMillan and Wife" star
 - Karate trophy
 - Golf gadget
 - Crude metals
 - Standards of perfection
 - Short memos
 - Affirm
 - Diamond weights
 - Picked up the tab
 - Dutch cheese
 - Buckley
 - Cohesive group
 - Critic's kudos
 - Heads of comets
 - Rajan's mate
 - Certain bills
 - Murks
 - Bit of gossip
 - Riled
 - Withdraw
 - Circle sections
 - Assail verbally
 - Port on Illinois River
 - Overdue
 - Possesses
- DOWN
- Pastry
 - Loton
 - Ingredient
 - Derby, e.g.
 - Biblical boat
 - Sudden gushes
 - Best men, e.g.
 - Minus
 - Venezuelan river
 - "Spenser: For Hire" star
 - Mental flash
 - Money holder
 - Industrious insects
 - Renders lip service
 - Night sound
 - Goddess, to Caesar
 - "The Rockford Files" star
 - Melodies
 - Wax: Comb. form
- 27 Turkish city on the Seyhan
- 28 Poe bird
- 29 Domesticated
- 30 Growing out
- 31 Had a meal
- 32 Church leaders
- 33 Part of EST
- 34 Body
- 35 Assam silkworm
- 36 Forest gods
- 37 Biblical well
- 38 Gave zest to
- 39 Fido's feet
- 40 Radiate
- 41 River to the Seine
- 42 Mottled rock
- 43 Go in haste
- 44 Top-flight
- 45 Shell's partner
- 46 A Kennedy
- 47 Corn serving

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A SPOT MAKES

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 5 2
♥ 5
♦ J 10 8 7 4
♣ K Q 10 9

EAST
♠ A J 10 6 3
♥ 3
♦ Q 6 3
♣ J 8 4 2

SOUTH
♠ K
♥ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 2
♦ K 5
♣ 5

The bidding:
South West North East
2 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass
4 ♣ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♣

By and large, it makes little difference whether you lead the four or the six of a suit. But once in a while it does matter, as this amusing hand illustrates.

South's opening two-bid was strong, although our choice would have been a simple one heart opening. However, the final contract of four hearts was pretty close to par. It was just a pity that the only values in the North hand were wasted.

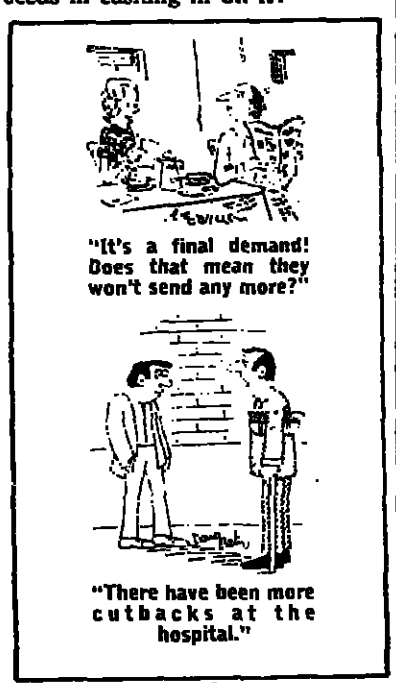
West had an unattractive choice of opening leads. He did not want to lead from any of his honors, so he decided on a trump. Had he selected the six of hearts, this hand would never have seen the light of day.

Declarer would have had to play everything out of his hand and, as long as West rose with the ace of clubs on the first lead of the suit, the defenders would make a spade, a club and two diamond tricks for down one.

Unfortunately, West led his low heart. Dummy's five was played for force, and to everyone's surprise declarer found he was on the table. All was not yet well. Declarer led the jack of diamonds, and when East played low he was faced with a guess—should he run the jack or go up with the king.

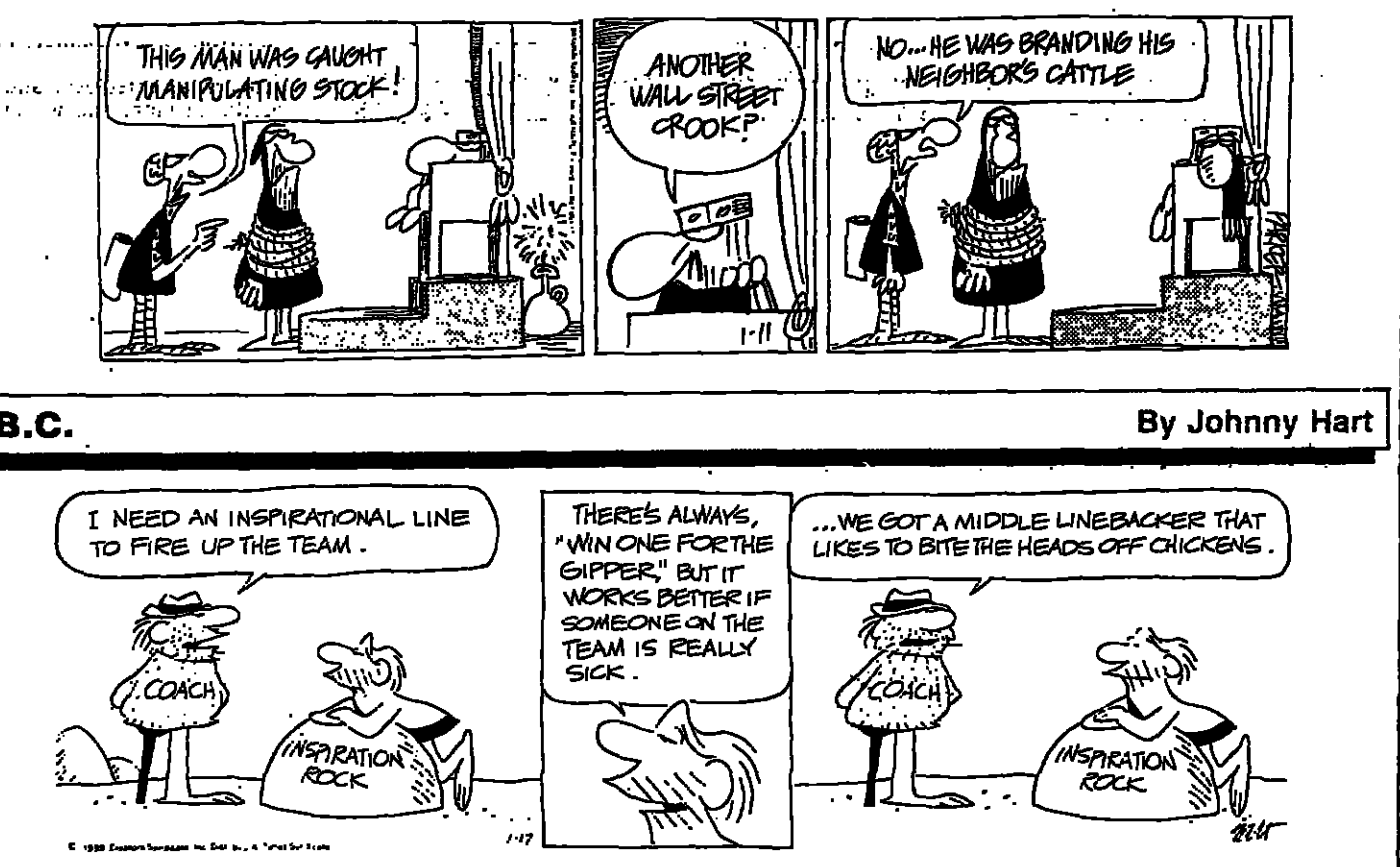
There was one slight pointer to the winning play. Since declarer could easily have a singleton king of diamonds, East might have risen with the ace if he held that card. Relying on his judgment, declarer played low, and he was delighted to find West had to win the trick with the ace.

Declarer ended up losing just one trick in each side suit. Have you ever noticed how often it is that when someone gets a lucky break, he succeeds in cashing in on it?



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS

Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You must avoid spending more than you know very well you can afford. You should keep your objectives clearly in mind. Do not allow others to pull the wool over your eyes. Be more considerate.

Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

The Moon's more favourable influence will help you to avoid falling into a trap. You will have something personal to be pleased about. You should try to accept things more as they are. Be tolerant.

Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will be a little more vulnerable than of late and should try to leave as little as possible to chance. Do not spend too much time dwelling upon secondary matters. At the same time avoid all kinds of exaggeration and pretence. Be prompt.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You will have to employ just a little more patience and tolerance. A good talk will help you to clear up a misunderstanding. You should try to ensure that your emotions do not get the upperhand over your reason. Be less fussy.

Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

The influence of the Moon will make it easier for you to stay on good terms with your friends. You must not allow yourself to be invaded by doubts, particularly since there is no need for them. You should not neglect your personal affairs. Be reasonable.

Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

You should make sure you are facing the facts and do not pretend even to yourself. Others are going to try to fool you so watch out. Do not lose your sense of proportions. Be magnanimous.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Your commonsense will help you to avoid making a serious error just now. You should not allow yourself to be disoriented from what you know is the right attitude. No harm in having a good laugh at yourself. Be sensible.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

Venus' better influence will help you to avoid introducing a complication into your personal life. You will have to make sure that your financial situation is not more parlous than it appears to be. A hobby should not be permitted to become an end in itself.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will be more successful than you have been of late. You must however be on your guard against silly little mistakes. And do not turn a blind eye to certain unpleasant facts that have to be faced sooner or later. Be tactful.

Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You will find it harder to come to terms with your surroundings and with yourself just now. You should try to avoid allowing your emotions to overwhelm your reason. Show a little more patience and goodwill towards others. Be fair.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will be able to avoid something you have been tempted to do. You will be better able to concentrate on what has to be done. And you will also be more able to face the facts. Be on your guard.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

The Moon's better influence will help you distinguish what is from what is not important. You will have to make some changes, but you will give a good idea what and where. Something you had hoped for will not happen, nor will something you had feared. Be just.

Ministerial Resolution

New labour regulations for the private sector in Kuwait

THE minister of social affairs and labour, having perused the Private Sector Labour Law No 38 of 1964 and

● The decree promulgated on Jan 7, 1979, concerning the functions and powers of Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour;

● The Ministerial Resolution No. 62 of 1982, directing to refer to the consulates of the State of Kuwait abroad or the Ministry of the Interior in Kuwait;

● The resolution of the minister of commerce and industry Nos. 51 and 52/1982, 43,44 and 45/1983, as well as Nos. 7 and 8/1984, duly permitting the Gulf Co-operation Council Arab states nationals to practice and carry on certain professions and activities in the State of Kuwait;

● The Ministerial Resolution No. 82 of 1984, permitting the domestic servants and the like to render service to the private sector;

● The Ministerial Resolution No. 75 of 1984, concerning Gulf Co-operation Council Arab states nationals to be treated on the basis of reciprocity as same as Kuwaitis regarding all dealings relating to labour;

● The Ministerial Resolutions Nos 77, 78 and 83 of 1984, governing the issuance of labour permits for the private sector non-Kuwaiti labourers;

● The Ministerial Resolutions Nos 81 of 1984 and 952 of 1985, concerning the use of Kuwait Airways Corporation flights; and

Pursuant to the requirements of public interests; and upon the proposal made by the undersecretary of the ministry,

Hereby decides:

(1) The scope of resolution applicability

Article 1

The provisions of this resolution shall be applicable to employers, employing Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti labourers, as well as to the labourers and professionals, duly licensed by the competent authorities, partners of Kuwaiti companies, craftsmen and professionals licensed by this ministry.

(2) Registration of employers

Article 2

The licences granted to employers for practicing the relevant activities shall be registered at the Labour Department, within whose jurisdiction the main office and centre of business of the employer concerned is located.

The following documents are required to be attached to the application form of registration:

1) A copy of the memorandum of association of the applicant company, and any pertinent amendments, if available.

2) A copy of the licence issued by the concerned authority for practicing the pertinent activity of profession.

3) A certificate from the Public Authority for Civil Information, showing the main address and centre of

business of employer together with all pertinent branches, if any.

4) The specimen of the employer's signature or that of the signature of any person authorised by him/her under the provisions of this resolution.

Article 3

Any person authorised to sign on behalf of the employer shall be a Kuwaiti national or a Gulf Co-operation Council state's citizen. As for the companies comprising non-Gulf Co-operation Council states partners, only the signature of a Kuwaiti partner or such a person delegated by him/her and authorised to sign in accordance with the provisions of the preceding article shall prevail.

The specimen of the employer's signature or of the person authorised by him/her shall be certified by the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry if the relevant activities are subject to registration with Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry or approved by the competent authority issued the licence for practicing the pertinent profession or approved by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

Article 4

The employer is required to keep the labour department concerned informed of any change occurs in his/her establishment (firm), its branches, the licences issued for practicing the pertinent activities and any complete or partial suspension of the employer's business activities. The failure to notify the ministry of any particulars of the aforesaid information shall result in application of the necessary measures by the competent Labour Department in this respect.

(3) Employment of Kuwaitis and the like

Article 5

Unemployed Kuwaitis and Gulf Co-operation Council Arab states nationals shall register their names with any competent Labour Department.

Every registered labourer shall be issued with a registration-identity card, showing his/her name, address, nationality, qualifications, the type of work he/she desires to perform and the name of his/her last employer if any.

Consequently, the competent labour department shall, among themselves, exchange and intercommunicate all particulars and information of the registered labourers.

Moreover, such registered labourers may be referred by the concerned officers from one department to another.

The competent departments shall, then, publish the pertinent particulars and information, besides endeavouring to find them employment opportunities, and nominate the same for suitable jobs, duly conforming with their technical and academic qualifications.

Article 6

In accordance with the provisions of this resolution, the competent labour departments shall not issue any employer with a labour permit to bring in, or employ any alien labourers, if any of

On January 14, 1989, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour issued a Ministerial Resolution No. 87 organising the private sector labour in Kuwait. These regulations have been published

in the official gazette and will come into force on March 22, 1989. As a service to our readers, the Arab Times publishes below a full text of these new regulations.



A group of expatriate workers in Kuwait. Ministerial Resolution No. 87 affects them all.

the labourers registered with such departments is able to occupy the vacant position.

In the event of the employer's rejection to employ the registered labourer who was nominated to join his/her service, the employer shall not be issued with a labour permit for employing an alien to fill in that vacancy.

Article 7

Every employer who employs Kuwaiti labourers or Gulf Co-operation Council Arab states national is required to register their names in the relevant form appropriately prepared for the said purpose and made available at labour department, located within the area of his/her business activities.

Moreover, he/she shall keep the said department informed of any excess or shortage in his/her labour force within fifteen days from the date it occurs.

(4) Employment of non-Kuwaitis

Article 8

The competent labour department shall issue the employer with a labour permit to employ non-Kuwaiti labourers in accordance with the following rules and regulations:

1) Non-availability of a Kuwaiti national or the like registered with the said department who is able to perform the job required.

2) Availability of a satisfactory justification, indicating the need of the labourer required, pursuant to the employer's business activity or the project already contracted, for implementation by him/her and the number of the labourers currently existing in his/her service.

3) Conformity of the required labourer's profession with the employer's business activity, or any of the auxiliary or complementary activities exercised by the employer for supporting his/her main business activity.

Further rules and regulations and/or specific stipulations may be added under a resolution issued by the undersecretary of the ministry for the purpose of issuing labour permits.

Article 9

Issuance of a labour permit for a non-Kuwaiti labourer shall be applied for by completing the appropriate form, prepared by the ministry for this purpose, with

the following documents attached thereto:

1) A copy of the academic and/or educational qualifications, or a testimonial showing the practical and/or applied experience of the labourer required.

2) A copy of the page of the required labourer's particulars specified in his/her passport.

3) Specimen of signature of the employer or of any person duly delegated to sign on his/her behalf.

Article 10

The employer shall undertake to appoint the labourer issued with a labour permit so as to join his/her service, and submit to the competent labour department the labour permit issued by this ministry within a maximum period of one month, with effect from the date of the labourer's entry or arrival in Kuwait, with the following documents properly attached thereto:

1) The travelling documents of the labourer i.e. his/her passport.

2) The relevant labour permit, duly certified by the Kuwait consulate at the natural domicile (country) of the required labourer, otherwise the measures applied by the Ministry of the Interior in this respect shall be observed, provided that the said permit is endorsed by the border authorities.

3) The signature specimen of the employer or any person deputised by him/her to sign on his/her behalf.

In case the employer has failed to abide by the provisions stipulated in this resolution, the ministry may cancel the relevant labour permit and order the deportation of the labourer in question at the expense of the employer or to suspend any additional labour force newly required for a maximum period of three months until such contravention is rectified, whichever is shorter.

Article 11

Employment of labourers by an employer is prohibited, unless the ministry permits him/her to do so, or issue labour permits in respect of such labourers to other employers.

In the event of any contravention made by the employer with regard to the provision of this article, the labour permits issued in respect of such labourers shall be cancelled, and the labourers involved shall be deported home at the expense of the employer for whom they were found working. Moreover, the competent

labour department shall have the right to suspend any new and/or additional labour force required by either of the involved i.e. the first or second employer for a period of six (6) months, or until such contravention is rectified whichever comes first.

Article 12

For every labourer who is issued with a labour permit to serve a certain employer, it is prohibited to work for another employer, even as a part-time, and under the consent of the principal employer. In such a case the labour permit issued to the involved labourer shall be cancelled, and the labourer in question shall be deported home at the expense of the employer for whom he was found working.

Article 13

Labour permits shall be issued to craftsmen, professionals and company non-Kuwaiti partners, if the person concerned has submitted an application in the appropriate form prepared by the ministry for the said purpose, with the following documents, duly attached thereto:

1) A valid travelling document, i.e. passport.

2) An authenticated copy of the company Memorandum of Association, or a copy of the licence, issued by the competent authority in his/her name to practice the profession in question.

Article 14

The ministry may issue labour permits to craftsmen and professionals of crafts and professions, practicable at their expense without any licences to be issued by any specific competent authority, if the concerned applicant has satisfied the following conditions:

1) To submit to the ministry a proof, evidencing that he/she has been practicing such a profession in Kuwait for at least ten years.

2) The applicant shall not be less than 30 Gregorian years old.

3) The applicant shall have a specific place of domicile, well known to the ministry.

An application for a labour permit in such a case may be submitted by means of appropriately completing the form prepared by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour for this purpose. The ministry may at any time cancel the said labour permit without indicating any reasons.

Article 15

Those who are subject to the provisions of this resolution shall be permitted

to work in Kuwait for a maximum period of three (3) years, duly renewable, provided that the person concerned has submitted his/her application for renewal, in the appropriate form prepared by the ministry for this purpose, three months prior to the expiry date of the residence permit, with the following documents enclosed thereto:

1) A valid travelling document i.e. a valid passport.

2) The duplicate copy of the previous work permit.

3) A copy of applicant's labour identity card.

4) The employer's signature specimen or the specimen of signature of any person authorised by the employer to sign on his/her behalf in accordance with the provisions stipulated in this resolution.

(5) Transfer of a labour permit

Article 16

Any labour permit issued in respect of a labourer to serve a certain employer shall not be transferred to another employer before at least a lapse of three years, with the labourer in question having spent, in the service of the principal employer for whose service the said labour permit was originally issued, whether such a labourer was brought from abroad or locally employed.

The validity of relevant duration shall commence to run with effect from the date of issuing the labour permit. In the event of terminating the employment contract concluded between the employer and labourer within this period for any reason whatsoever, the employer shall be held liable for the repatriation of such labourer, even if he/she is locally employed.

With regard to government projects, labourers shall not be transferred from one employer to another during the valid period of contract, even if it exceeds the duration provided for herein before, save in the case of project-contract withdrawal from the principal contractor, for readjudication in the favour of another contractor. Labourers may then be transferred to the latter, without applying the duration condition stipulated hereof.

Upon the expiry of the government contract the employer may transfer such labourers to another employer of a similar project, or

repatriate them pursuant to the provisions of this resolution. The minister may exempt any person, as he deemed as appropriate, from the condition of the duration stipulated in this article.

Article 17

The ministry may exempt those who have been residing continuously in Kuwait for a constant period of ten (10) years, from the provision of the duration stipulated in the preceding article, if the relevant labour contract has been terminated under the consent of the employer concerned, or in accordance with the provisions of either Article 57 or Article 59 of the Private Sector Labour Law.

Article 18

The transfer application shall be submitted in the appropriate form, duly prepared by the ministry for this purpose with the following documents, properly attached thereto:

1) A valid travelling document i.e. applicant's passport.

2) The duplicate copy of the previous work permit.

3) The specimen of signatures of both employers, the first and second, or of any person delegated by either of them to sign in accordance with the provisions of this resolution.

4) A copy of the labour identity card issued to the labourer.

Article 19

In the event of the employer's rejection, the ministry shall have the right, without referring to the employer to transfer the labour permit issued in respect of a labourer to another employer if the labourer satisfies the conditions stipulated in Article 16 of this resolution.

(6) Final cancellation of labour permit

Article 20

In all cases the employer shall undertake to cancel the labour permit issued in respect of a labourer after the expiry of the labourer's term of service with him, besides repatriating the labourer at the employer's expense, unless the labourer is entitled to transfer his/her labour permit to another employer in accordance with the provisions of this resolution, save the following cases where the labourer shall be held liable to bear his/her repatriation expenses, i.e.:

1) If the labourer's service has been terminated under a disciplinary action, pursuant to the provisions of Article 55 of the Private Sector Labour Law No. 38 of 1964.

2) If the labourer refused to continue in the employer's service during the period of contract, without having any legal right to do so.

3) If the labourer has terminated his/her contract in a manner contradictory to the conditions stipulated therein or to the provisions of the labour law.

In all such cases the involved labourer shall be deprived of being issued with a labour permit to serve in Kuwait for at least a term of two years.

Article 21

The final cancellation of a labour permit shall be applied

for in the appropriate form, prepared by the ministry for this purpose, with the following documents, attached thereto:

1) The travelling document of the labourer i.e. the labourer's passport.

2) The labour identity card already issued to labourer.

3) A passenger ticket for the labourer.

4) A copy of the previous labour permit issued in respect of the labourer.

Article 22

In the event of final cancellation of a labour permit granted to a labourer, the employer undertakes to return to the ministry a copy of the cancellation form, with the indication of the border authorities, duly confirming the labourer's departure. The department concerned shall then issue the employer with a written acknowledgement of receipt of the said form.

No further dealings applications shall be accepted from the employer, unless he/she submits the copy referred to hereof to the competent labour department.

Article 23

Employers who enter into contracts with the government for implementation of governmental projects, and consequently apply for issuance of labour permits to bring alien labour force from abroad for the execution of the said projects are required to use the aircraft of Kuwait Airways Corporation or the national airlines of the country from whom the alien labour force is recruited. This should be made in agreement with the General Administration of Civil Aviation Director, with regard to the carriage of labourers and passengers to and from Kuwait back to the domicile of such alien labourers.

Article 24

The ministry shall have the right without indicating any reasons, to reject an application for a labour permit, a labour permit renewal or transfer to another employer in spite of satisfying the conditions of this resolution. Further, the ministry may, without stating the relevant reason, ask the employer to cancel a labour permit of a certain labourer and repatriate him/her.

Article 25

The provisions governing the labour force of each business activity shall be issued under a ministerial resolution.

Article 26

This resolution shall be published in the official gazette, and shall come into force after two months as from the date of its publication. The following ministerial resolutions shall be repealed immediately it is enforceable, i.e. the Ministerial Resolution No. 77 of 1984, organising the issue of labour permits in the private sector, and Resolutions Nos. 81 of 1984 and 952 of 1985 concerning the use of aircraft of Kuwait Airways Corporation, and Resolutions No. 62 of 1982, referring applicants to Kuwait consulates abroad and No. 82 of 1984 permitting domestic servants and the like to join the private sector service.

Minister of Social Affairs and Labour



Workers engaged in the construction industry.



An expatriate technician in a laboratory.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Humaidhi optimistic over IFAD's third replenishment

KUWAIT, Feb 7, (OPECNA): Bader Al Humaidhi, director-general of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, says he expects positive results from on-going consultations over the third replenishment of the Rome-based International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

IFAD's main financial support comes from OPEC and OECD countries. Al Humaidhi, who acted as spokesman for OPEC countries (category II) at IFAD's 12th governing council meeting in Rome last month, said OECD countries had asked the OPEC group to maintain its earlier contribution of \$184 million.

Contribution

"Such a contribution is difficult to make at present in view of the economic hardship facing OPEC countries," he said, adding that Kuwait had already fixed the amount of its share though the figure had not been yet made official.

He hoped that an agreement on the third replenishment would be reached when the IFAD governing council resumes its adjourned 12th session in March.

He pointed out that IFAD, unlike other international organisations, gave its three constituent groups, OPEC, OECD and non-OPEC developing countries, equal voting rights despite their varying financial contributions.

Canadian-led group signs Ankara metro contract

ANKARA, Feb 7, (Reuters): A Canadian-led group initiated a contract today to construct the start of an Ankara metro system aimed at giving the polluted Turkish capital a face-lift.

"I thank God for being able to inaugurate such a big project," Prime Minister Turgut Ozal said at the ceremony, attended by Canada's State Minister for Finance, John McDermid.

Ankara mayor Mehmet Altinsoy said the contract, won by Canada's Urban Transport Development Corporation (UTDC) with Turkey's Gama and Guris companies, totalled \$428 million.

The first 14-km (nine mile) stage of the planned 54-km (34-mile) metro is due to be completed by 1992.

Contract

Canadian sources said ground-breaking was possible next month if a company set up between UTDC and Gama-Guris signed a formal contract with Ankara Municipality under Turkey's build-operate-transfer system.

The whole system, scheduled for completion in 2015, aims at easing road congestion, reducing vehicle exhaust pollution and shifting the city centre away from barren Anatolian mountains to allow more space for mass housing projects and industry.

Imported car sales jump in Japan

TOKYO, Feb 7, (UPI): Imported car sales in Japan in January jumped 20.6 per cent over a year ago to hit a monthly record of 7,198 units, marking the 61st consecutive year-on-year rise, the Japan Automobile Importers' Association reported today.

The total included 2,793 passenger cars with over 2,000cc engine capacity, up 11.1 per cent, 4,340 subcompact cars, up 26.0 per cent, and 65 trucks, up 60 per cent, the association said.

West German cars continued to dominate the imported car market, accounting for 4,988 units, up 12.4 per cent over a year ago, the association said.

Volkswagen was the best-selling West German car, totalling 1,552 units, followed by BMW with 1,398 units, it said.

Sales of US-made cars increased more than two-fold to 880 units while those of British cars gained 23.2 per cent to 505 units, it said.

Declined

Sales of Italian and Swedish cars rose 2.4 per cent and 7.8 per cent respectively to 212 units and 330 units but those of French cars declined 5.6 per cent to 255 units, the association said.

Riding on brisk demand for luxury cars and the changing taste of Japanese customers, imported car sales hit a record of 17,135 units in 1988, up 47.1 per cent over a year ago.

Arab nations seek to boost economic growth

NICOSIA, Feb 7, (Reuters): The failure of Arab League efforts to promote integration among its 22 members has produced an embryo Arab Co-operation Council (ACC), the latest sub-regional grouping seeking to boost economic growth.

The prime ministers of Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan will meet in Amman on Feb 14 to announce the charter for the ACC, a senior official from one of the countries involved said today.

"In the absence of the Arab League, we are forming our own alliance because we cannot stand alone in the face of other economic groups. It is self-defence," he said.

Arab diplomats in Cairo said the four countries' heads of state planned to meet in Baghdad shortly after their prime ministers met in Amman. The summit, still to be confirmed, might take place on Feb 16, they said.

The Arab League has been crippled in recent years by wide ideological and political rifts over approaches to Middle

East peace and the Iran-Iraq war.

The six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) was the first of the new-style Arab economic units, binding Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman in an economic and defence grouping.

The GCC was formed in May 1981 in partial reaction to the Iran-Iraq war, which started six months earlier, and the 1979 Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

In North Africa, the leaders of Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania and Libya are expected to announce the formation of an Arab Maghreb union in mid-February.

Language

"Economics is the language of the modern world. We cannot stand alone isolated while the world around us is forming economic alliances. It is only natural for the Arab states to seek smaller effective groups," a Gulf-based Arab diplomat said.

He said there had been an Arab League accord for a common market

since the late 1950s — "but nothing has been done."

Officials in the Maghreb and in the four ACC states have often said that the EEC bid to create a genuine unified market by 1992 was added impetus for their economic unity plans.

One Arab diplomat said a major problem with the Arab League was a rule calling for unanimous approval of all decisions.

New

"How can you get 22 people to agree on the same thing? Many want the constitution amended," he said.

The planned Arab Co-operation Council will represent nearly 80 million people and a Maghreb union 62 million people. The GCC covers 16 million people.

Lebanon's leftist As-Safir newspaper said on Monday Saudi Arabia opposed the ACC as a rival to its leadership in the Arab world and a challenge to the GCC.

But Riyadh quickly denied it was against the ACC or that ties with Egypt

were strained because it was promoting the new group.

The Saudi Press Agency quoted an official as saying King Fahd would continue to press for Egypt's readmission to the Arab League. Cairo was suspended after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

"The kingdom blesses any Arab gathering," the official said.

Arab officials have said the ACC is an economic alliance with no military or political aspirations. Membership will be open to any Arab state not belonging to the GCC or the planned Maghreb union.

"Our alliance is not directed against anyone and is not a military one. It is just an economic group that gives us mobility, more effective than the Arab League," an official said.

Egypt and Jordan strongly backed Iraq in its eight years of war with non-Arab Iran and supplied it with weapons, military experts and ammunition. North Yemen sent a symbolic brigade of a few thousand soldiers to fight alongside the Iraqis.

Bush vows to avoid protectionism

US President unveils thrift bailout plan

WASHINGTON, Feb 7, (Reuters): President Bush yesterday unveiled a plan financed in part by \$50 billion in government bonds to shore up the ailing US savings industry without imposing direct fees on depositors.

"We intend to restore our deposit insurance system to complete health... we will see that the guarantee to depositors is forever honoured," he told a news conference.

Bush said his plan would address economic difficulties faced by the savings and loan industry but would take into account that "unconscionable risk-taking, fraud and outright criminality" had been factors in the crisis.

The plan would:

- Create a financing corporation to issue \$50 billion in government bonds to shore up failing institutions
- Put the estimated 350 insolvent savings institutions under joint control of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) — which oversees commercial banks, and the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corp. (FSLIC)
- Overhaul the regulatory system to give the FDIC the sole authority to insure and set standards for savings banks
- Add \$50 million to the budget of the justice department to "seek out and punish" those responsible for criminal mismanagement of savings and loan institutions.

The Bush plan for the crisis had been billed by the White House as a "permanent and comprehensive" solution. Many

experts estimated it could take up to \$100 billion to save the thrift industry.

The Bush administration has been struggling to find a way to rescue savings institutions without violating the President's oft-repeated election pledge not to raise taxes.

Bush's senior advisers had been considering slapping a fee on bank customers of 25 cents per \$100 of deposits. But when the plan was leaked to the media, members of Congress and the industry rebelled, claiming it amounted to a tax increase.

The President's new plan — which must be approved by the Democratic-controlled Congress — would raise the fees paid by savings and commercial banks to their insurance corporations, but by no more than seven cents per \$100 of the insurance protection.

Cost

Asked if he could guarantee that savings institutions and banks would not pass on the cost of the rescue plan to their customers, Bush replied: "We are not guaranteeing that. I would hope that would not happen, but there's no guaranteeing what institutions will do."

"There is no guarantee of passing this on to the consumer, nor is there a guarantee that it won't be passed on," he added. "Nothing is without pain when you come to solve a problem of this magnitude."

The savings and loan crisis has emerged as Bush's first major domestic policy challenge.

Difficult economic condi-

tions, particularly in the US southwest, undermined the financial integrity of hundreds of savings institutions. But Bush said mismanagement and fraud also played a role.

The President said he was determined to "seek out and punish" any savings and loan executives who had put their institutions in jeopardy through criminal behaviour.

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The President said he was determined to "seek out and punish" any savings and loan executives who had put their institutions in jeopardy through criminal behaviour.

"I make you a solemn pledge that we will make every effort to recover assets diverted from these institutions and to place behind bars those who have caused losses through criminal behaviour," he said.

As part of the effort to punish those abusing the system, Bush said he would order the Justice Department to double the personnel involved in investigations.

"Let those who would take advantage of the public trust and put at risk the savings of American families anticipate that we will seek them out, pursue them and demand the most

severe penalties," the President said.

Bush has had to grapple with the tough task of mapping a strategy that will prop up the industry without costing the federal government so much that it would jeopardise his domestic spending priorities, which he will outline in an address to Congress on Thursday.

Initial reaction in the Congress to Bush's plan seemed to be positive.

"He (Bush) has hit a home run," said Congressman Jim Leach, a Republican on the House of Representatives Banking Committee.

He said he hoped Congress would expedite consideration of the plan, with final action before Easter.

Savings and loan institutions traditionally have concentrated on offering mortgages to home buyers and are monitored by their own federal regulator, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

Regulated

Commercial banks, which are regulated by other agencies, have mainly made commercial loans.

However, barriers dividing the types of services both offer have been dismantled in the 1980s, and commercial banks now offer mortgages through subsidiaries.

Banks pay a premium of eight cents on each \$100 of deposits to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which insures all deposits for savers up to \$100,000. Savings banks pay a premium of about 21 cents to the FSLIC. Experts say the government

insurance fund that guarantees savings and loan deposits of up to \$100,000 is likely to exhaust its resources unless a comprehensive aid package is adopted.

Increase

Savings and loan executives have said an increase in insurance premiums could push up the interest rates they charge to borrowers, drive their business to banks and prompt massive withdrawals.

Similarly, commercial banks have said money markets funds and other financial institutions could reap a windfall if banks and savings institutions were forced to increase their interest rates.

The President, presiding at the swearing-in ceremony for US trade representative Carla Hills, vowed yesterday that his administration would resist protectionism.

Bush said he will work forcefully to open more foreign markets to US goods but to bear in mind that "our major trading partners are not our enemies but our allies."

He said he agreed with Hills' contention, made during her US Senate confirmation hearings, that trade issues should be approached "with a crowbar and a handshake."

Bush jokingly waved a crowbar he presented to the trade official at the ceremony in the Old Executive Office Building.

Hills, in turn, presented Bush with a sweatshirt emblazoned with "think big," a reference to the marching orders Bush gave his cabinet at its first meeting.

World Business Summary

Iran seeks link with GCC to step up trade

ABU DHABI, Feb 7, (Reuters): Iran wants its Arab neighbours in the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) to set up a joint organisation with Tehran to boost trade, an Iranian official said. "We have in mind a plan to set up a joint chamber of commerce with the GCC to be based in the Emirate of Dubai," Ali Naji Khamoushi, president of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Mines, said in an interview with Reuters. Unofficial figures showed Iran-GCC trade was at a record \$2 billion in 1987, he said during a visit to Abu Dhabi for an Islamic trade conference. Khamoushi said trade ties between Iran and the GCC, which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, should be put on a firm basis and not be so dependent on exchange rate movements. "Through this chamber we could finalise everything and adjust and stabilise our economic links," he said. "Now our private sector is gaining more freedom and we can import directly from producers... so we have to find a ground for economic co-operation or the boom in trade with the GCC could collapse." He would discuss the project with GCC officials and if they agreed it could be set up in three months time. Khamoushi said there had been no firm decision yet on what role the private sector should play in Iran's economy. He also echoed Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati's statement this week that borrowing money from abroad for economic reconstruction was still officially frowned upon.

Nigeria to seek global Paris Club debt deal

LAGOS, Feb 7, (Reuters): Nigeria will discuss rescheduling debt worth about \$11 billion with government and institutional creditors in Paris on Feb 27, Central Bank Deputy Governor Ismaila Usman said yesterday. "We hope not to get anything worse, or less, than with the commercial banks," he told Reuters, referring to the agreement reached last September to reschedule payments on around \$5.2 billion of debt with the so-called London Club of creditors. That deal gave Nigeria 20 years to pay off \$2.7 billion of medium-term debt and 15 years for \$2.5 billion in letters of credit, with three years grace in both cases. The once oil-rich nation has about \$30.5 billion of foreign debt, according to the World Bank. Nigeria's 1989 budget anticipates devoting almost half expected foreign exchange earnings to servicing foreign debt, assuming a generous rescheduling agreement with the institutional and government creditors. Usman said the discussions with the creditor group known as the Paris Club would range beyond payments falling due this year. "We will be looking at the global picture, as with the London Club," he said. Rescheduling and new lines of credit are essential if Nigeria is to survive what one Western diplomat who closely monitors debt talks called "the year of the hump."

Profits up at Blue Arrow

LONDON, Feb 7, (Reuters): The world's biggest employment agency, Blue Arrow, today reported 1988 results that confirmed brokerage analysts' views that it was more a solid performer than the soaring high flier they once thought. Pre-tax profits rose to \$75.1 million (\$130.4 million) for the year to Oct 31 from \$29.1 million (\$50.5 million) the year before. Analysts a few months ago said they were looking for a result around 30 per cent higher. British-based Blue Arrow says it never made that kind of forecast itself. The figures reflected the first full year of results from Manpower Inc, the US employment agency which Blue Arrow took over in 1987. The announcement of the results had been delayed for a week, apparently because of a recent management shake-out in which a boardroom coup toppled chief executive Tony Berry, meanwhile its stockbrokers have just walked out on it. Berry changed the map of the worldwide employment business with Blue Arrow's takeover of Manpower for \$1.3 billion.

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South Africa clamps down on exchange control abuses

JOHANNESBURG, Feb 7, (Reuters): South Africa's central bank today announced tighter measures to stop abuses of foreign exchange controls after a series of currency scandals provoked criticism of its supervisory system.

The Reserve Bank will boost the number of inspectors and increase co-operation between its own departments so it can better detect attempted currency fraud, bank governor Gerhard de Kock said in a statement.

The measures complement several other initiatives and legal changes made late last year, De Kock added.

South Africa uses a two-tier currency system to prevent any panic flight of capital abroad which could be touched off by concern about black unrest or foreign sanctions and corporate disinvestment.

De Kock said the system, alth-

ough it left much scope for fraud, was hard to enforce and was only partially effective but it remained necessary. "As long as this is the case, the control must be made as effective as possible," he said.

Police said last month they were investigating foreign exchange fraud cases involving \$50 million rand (\$229 million). In addition an official probe involving business deals in the nominally-independent black "homelands" exposed illegal currency deals totalling 100 million rand (\$42 million).

Supervision

The inquiry late last year found apparent lapses by the central bank in its supervision of currency controls.

"The investigation... into certain alleged contraventions of the banks act and the exchange control regulation have underlined the need not only for intensified and expanded bank-

ing supervision and exchange control but also for improved co-ordination between these two widely different control functions," De Kock said.

"The (central) bank's policing record is hardly enviable," Howard Preece, deputy editor of the Johannesburg business journal Finance Week, wrote last month.

De Kock said banking laws were changed last year to allow Reserve Bank supervision of unregistered banking businesses.

A joint inquiry was also launched into how to tighten loopholes arising from South Africa's treatment of four of the homelands as independent states.

The central bank says it is reviewing the role of commercial banks as authorised foreign exchange dealers, adding they had to be more diligent and effective in their control functions.

Private sector has a significant role

Rajiv tells planners to aim for higher growth

BOMBAY, Feb 7: With a little more initiative and innovative approach, India can achieve a rate of growth beyond 6.5 per cent. The Planning Commission has been asked to find the means for achieving a higher growth and in this the private sector has significant role to play. The key to it is deployment of technology in all areas of life, according to the Economic Times.

The Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, made these observations while addressing the valedictory session of the symposium on the "Role of Information Technology in Employment Generation", organised by the Indian Merchants' Chamber here today.

"The attitude of mind must be changed before we set ourselves

on the course of modernisation," Gandhi said. The government apparatus is often slow in bringing about such changes and that is why the private sector must take initiative.

Development and technology are closely interlinked. It is the level of technology which determines the nature of development. Gandhi said that he was shocked and saddened by looking at the imperviousness of bureaucracy towards technology.

Development

The Technology Mission created by the government at once linked all departments in a meaningful manner and also boosted indigenous design and development in the hardware as well as the software area.

"Things can be changed and must be changed," the prime minister said adding information technology acts like a catalyst.

Often the resources are not utilised because there is no adequate data on their availability. With the efficient use of information technology India could fight the severe drought two years ago. Then there are misconceptions about technology itself. It is not correct to say that modernisation creates unemployment. The railways have shown that modernisation can be achieved without retrenching people.

Gandhi observed that many a time senior managers kept smart looking computers on their tables but hardly used them. These equipment are not status

symbols. Citing his personal experience, he said he had to "physically remove all the typewriters and put in their places word processors and computers. I also know my software better."

Anybody who is serious about eradicating unemployment and poverty cannot evade the role of technology. "How long are we going to produce inferior goods with backward technology and at higher prices," he asked. The banks have brought computers but are not fully using them and this is the experience in all areas of economy, he pointed out.

Impact

Referring to the observation of Sam Pitroda that information is a modern "product", Gandhi said that actually, information has been one of the most impor-

tant products throughout the history "but in the past, it was bartered secretly and not publicly."

Pitroda, technology advisor to the prime minister, in his address observed that no other technology in the last 300 years had made such stunning impact on mankind as the information technology. From hospitals to banking, from services to marketing, every area has come under its ambit and even the concept of efficiency, productivity, quality and costs have undergone a change.

Many people ask, he said, why this emphasis on modern technology when there is no drinking water in thousands of villages and no blackboards in many of our schools.

Oil prices weaker

Dollar dives and Wall Street sharply higher

LONDON, Feb 7, (Reuters): The dollar ended more than one penny down in Europe today with investors still worried about the possibility of further central bank dollar sales.

Relatively high US interest rates, however, provided the dollar with some support and prevented it from falling too far. It touched five-month highs just under 1.89 marks yesterday, triggering aggressive open market intervention by the US Federal Reserve and nine other central banks in Western Europe and Canada. But today the banks kept to the sidelines throughout Europe's day.

Higher Wall Street rose sharply today with the Dow Jones industrial average 17.14 points higher at 2,338.21 points by New York's midday. London shares moved ahead to their highest since the crash of 87 while the Tokyo market ended at another record. The dollar closed at 1.8675 marks and 129.30 yen in London today compared with 1.8780 and 129.65 yen yesterday.

In New York, US currency dealers said there was no fresh news to influence trade. They were waiting for President Bush's budget announcement on Thursday.

Speculators have been hungry for dollars since new year, betting that US interest rates will remain firm to cool an over-heating US economy — which brings a lucrative return on their dollar assets.

Import But a buoyant dollar, which has risen five per cent since the start of the year, pushes up import bills, and thus inflation, outside the United States.

Finance ministers of the Group of Seven industrial nations apparently renewed instructions to their central banks to keep the dollar in check when they met in Washington last week.

The price of gold closed in London at \$392.75 an ounce, compared with yesterday's close of \$389.25.

Low Some dealers said gold prices may have bottomed out after touching a quoted low of around \$386 yesterday, although others thought the market could dip again to around \$380 in the short-term.

Crude oil prices were weaker with North Sea Brent blend for March delivery quoted just under \$16 a barrel.

The benchmark US Treasury 30-year bond traded in London at 101-14/32 per cent yielding 8.86 per cent.

Recovered In London, shares recovered much of yesterday's fall to trade near the day's highs in late business, reflecting gains on Wall Street today and a return of selective buying interest, dealers said.

Aero-engine makers Rolls-Royce topped the active list with a turnover of 21 million shares, falling 1p to 161. Dealers said news of an order to power six Air Europe McDonnell Douglas MD-11s was outweighed by an earlier newspaper report the UK has refused Rolls-Royce to develop its RB211-524L engine.

By 1603 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 16.9 points to 2,061.2.

Today's independent newspaper said the UK government has rejected an application from Rolls-Royce for £100 million to help launch the RB211-524L engine.

Rolls-Royce chairman Sir Francis Tombs said the firm was still in talks with the government about launch aid for the engine. "We said we would go ahead without it. The launch is not dependent on it, but we're still talking," he said.

In New York American Airlines said it had agreed to buy eight MD-11s and to acquire options for up to 42 more. Analysts said the MD-11 long-range airliners are competitors to the Airbus A340 aircraft.

Participant British Aerospace is a major participant in the Airbus Industrie consortium. The shares, up 12p to 536, showed little reaction to today's orders. The American Airlines MD-11 order was accompanied by an order for US General Electric engines.

Reuters shares were 10p higher at 630, responding to a wave of US buying following news New Zealand's NZPA investments had converted its holding of 2.78 million 'A' shares into 'B' shares.

Analysts said they had been speculating that a move of this sort might be on the cards and now anticipate other 'A' share holders will take similar steps. They said the shares rose because the NZPA news removed uncertainty about the issue.

Rolls-Royce carry more votes than the 'B' stock. Analysts said the prospect of the 'A' capital being converted into 'B' shares could bring a flood of new Reuter equity, possibly up to 100 million shares, onto the market.

This prospect, they said, should have weighed on Reuter shares today.

Attractive But they noted that with the market short of quality stock recently and with US investors known to find Reuters attractive, it was not surprising there were buyers around. The removal of the dual share structure, if it comes about, could lead to increased Japanese interest in Reuter shares, they said.

Blue Arrow closed 4p up to 91 after full year results showing pre-tax profit of £75.08 million against 29.09 million. The final dividend was doubled to 1.2p. Dealers said although the result was at the bottom end of forecasts, the postponement of the figures had led the market into expecting such an outcome.

The Blue Arrow results were due to be published on Jan 31 and since then analysts had been revising their forecasts down on doubts about the first-time contribution of its US Manpower Group, which showed a 31 per cent increase in dollar terms.

Blue Arrow said dollar moves and losses at a former unit hit the results. Some 7.8 million Blue Arrow shares were traded.

OPEC strategic committee to review world oil market

VIENNA, Feb 7, (Agencies): The eight members of the OPEC strategic committee, responsible for monitoring prices, will meet here on March 29 to review the situation at the international oil market, since reaching the agreement on the production ceiling, quotas and the floor price last Nov 28, an informed source said today.

The committee, entrusted by the latest ministerial conference to monitor prices at the global market, comprises oil and energy ministers of Algeria, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

The source predicted a joint meeting will take place between OPEC members and oil producers outside the organisation on the sidelines of the OPEC strategic committee meeting.

Such a proposed meeting will take place if non-OPEC members reach an agreement with OPEC states on realising real co-operation between the two sides, aimed at stabilising prices on the market.

He affirmed that the organisation has always sacrificed to achieve price stability, which benefitted producers as well as consumers.

The source also predicted that the eight ministers would look into the proposal of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez on convening an OPEC summit.

However, he noted that this topic will be included in the agenda of the next ordinary ministerial conference, due to be held on June 5 in the Austrian capital.

The President Andres Perez had proposed an OPEC summit, during a tour of some member states, which included Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Iran and Iraq, to review the organisation's future oil policy and means of stabilising prices.

A number of countries have agreed in principle to the summit, provided that time and place will be fixed at the next ministerial meeting.

OPEC had held a joint meeting with independent oil producers in London last month. The two sides agreed to continue their co-operation on various oil-related issues.

Meanwhile, efforts to bring about a new economic order in which raw material producers would receive a fair and equitable price for their resources, often non-renewable, have "regrettably come to naught," says an editorial in the "OPEC Bulletin," a monthly journal published by OPEC's Public Information Department.

The editorial in the January issue recalls that at the time of OPEC's formation in 1960, it was hoped that similar producer organisations would be formed to cover important raw materials produced in the South for industries in the North.

However, this did not come about, despite the general acceptance of global interdependence and the need to bridge the gap between developing and developed countries. "Even OPEC was only able to survive the manipulations of the oil market because, ultimately, oil

happens to be of such strategic economic importance that it cannot be completely dispensed with in the modern world."

The editorial points out that "we are now witnessing the tragic results of this failed initiative: instead of narrowing the gap between North and South is over-widening." It takes note of a UNICEF report which discloses that the net transfer of funds from the Third World to the financial institutions of the developed countries has reached \$20 billion annually.

Loan The "OPEC bulletin" asserts that the answer lies not in providing what are no more than "hand-outs" whenever a natural disaster strikes the poor of the world, or to make out "charitable loans" to enable debtor countries to pay the interest on their massive foreign debt, but to take steps which would make the Third World self-sufficient. Fair prices must be paid for the raw materials and commodities of the South. OPEC set an example nearly 30 years ago. It needs to be followed today. However, the answer lies not in confrontation, but co-operation between North and South.

"The North needs the raw materials and markets of the South, just as the South needs the industrial goods and technology of the North. That should be a solid basis for co-operation in equal partnership. That was the foundation upon which OPEC was built and that is what OPEC stands for today," concludes the "bulletin."

Japanese carmakers hope to steal limelight at Chicago auto show

DETROIT, Feb 7, (UPI): Three Japanese carmakers are hoping to steal the limelight at the Chicago auto show later this week by unveiling a trio of sports cars priced from "affordable" to "prohibitive".

The introductions by Mazda, Nissan and Honda are especially significant because they are being done at the Chicago show, which has traditionally been the domain of US carmakers catering to Midwest buyers in the heart of the American car market.

Vehicles Japanese automakers also will use the nine-day Chicago show, which opens on Saturday, to debut a number of other vehicles slated for showrooms as 1990 models.

This year, top US automakers — General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Corp. — chose last month's North American International Auto Show in Detroit to showcase their latest cars and trucks for 1989 and 1990, in efforts to give their expanded hometown show

a shot at unseating the Chicago display as the nation's largest automobile show.

This time, however, US automakers will have little else than some new prototype or concept vehicles on hand at Chicago. And this time, Japanese carmakers will hold the high cards in the windy city.

Mazda, for instance, will debut the MX-5 Miata, a sporty, rear-drive two-seater which is reminiscent of the British-built Lotus Elan of the 1960s.

The Miata is powered by a 16-valve, 116-horsepower four-cylinder engine, which is really a new cylinder head design bolted atop the same engine which powers Mazda's 323 subcompact.

Billed as Mazda's re-entry into the affordable sports car market, the Miata is expected to cost around \$13,000 when it debuts this June. That is considerably below the rotary engine RX-7, which cost \$7,000 when it first bowed in 1978, but now ranges from \$16,000 to nearly \$25,000 in its latest reincarnation.

Mazda hopes to sell about 36,000 Miatas a year, with the first ones to go on sale this June.

Nissan, which recently introduced the 240SX as its "affordable" sports coupe in the \$14,000 to \$16,000 range, will use the Chicago show to unveil its newest version of its 300ZX sports car, moving that model firmly into the \$25,000 to \$30,000 range.

Redesigned from road to roof, the 300ZX retains its rear-drive layout. The first versions are powered by a 24-valve V6 engine generating 222 horsepower. The most potent model, to debut later this year, will be powered by a 300 HP V6 fitted with twin turbochargers. The 300ZX turbo will be priced closer to \$30,000.

Plans Honda's Acura luxury car division plans to take the wraps off a new two-seater sports coupe which sources say could be priced about \$55,000 to rub bumpers with the likes of Porsche, Mercedes, Jaguar and Cadillac's Allante — and to show Nissan and Toyota's new luxury car

divisions that it is one step ahead of them.

Called the MXS, the flagship Acuracar is powered by a 3.0 litre V6 engine placed in a midship layout and cloaked by a body which looks as if designed by Ferrari instead of Honda, which is saying little more about the MXS at this time.

Nissan also will give Chicago showgoers the first peek at its new front-drive van called the Axxess. A four-wheel-drive version is to debut later, and both versions will compete with Mazda's recently introduced MPV minivan, as well as current offerings from GM, Ford and Chrysler.

Japanese carmaker Subaru is to preview its new legacy sedan at the Chicago auto show, although it will not go on sale here until April. The legacy is to be Subaru's first domestically built car, assembled at its joint venture plant with Isuzu in Lafayette, Indiana.

Priced in \$13,000 to \$18,000 range, Subaru hopes the legacy, along with a new line of mid-

sized cars to bow this summer under the Loyale name, will help improve its US sales.

Other import carmakers will have premiers at the Chicago show as well, including West German carmaker Audi.

Audi plans to debut its coupe Quattro, to go on sale this June. Powered by a 162 HP 2.3 litre 20-valve five-cylinder engine, the all-wheel-drive Quattro is expected to cost about \$30,000, a company spokesman said.

Also to be shown is the Audi V8, a new large sedan to be powered by a 240 HP 3.8 litre V8 and compete with luxury sedans from Mercedes and BMW. The Audi V8 is expected to cost more than \$50,000 when it enters US showrooms this July as Audi's first all-wheel drive car equipped with an automatic transmission.

German carmaker Volkswagen will show its new Corrado, a four-seat sports coupe to go on sale this summer for around \$20,000. It is powered by a supercharged, 158 HP 1.8 litre four-cylinder engine, capable of 140 mph (225 km/h).

Iran ranks second in world copper deposits

TEHRAN, Feb 7, (OPECNA): Kerman's copper quarries with proven deposits of 1.20 billion tons and a purity of over 0.70 per cent are among the world's richest, according to Mahmoud Shiri, managing director of the National Copper Industries.

He said that out of 135 million tons of soil extracted from Kerman's Sarcheshmeh complex, 35 million tons of sulphide had been processed.

Since 1981, the yield has included one million tons of concentrated copper, 270,000 tons of anode copper, 140,000 tons of cathode copper and 45,000 tons of copper twisted-wire, he told a press conference.

The Sarcheshmeh complex exported 13,500 tons of concentrated copper in 1984, 24,300 tons in 1985, 30,398 tons in 1986 and 22,860 tons in 1987, Shiri said.

"Development plans are underway to attain the complex's projected capacity of 164,000 tons annually," he said.

Calling Iran the world's second largest holder of copper deposits after Chile, the official said that the Sarcheshmeh complex was meeting 99 per cent of the country's copper needs.

KD deposit rates mixed in quiet trade KUWAIT, Feb 7, (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates fell in the short-dates but changed little in the fixed periods today, in quiet trading as banks awaited results of tomorrow's KD100 million three-month treasury bill issue.

Dealers said overnight funds opened at eight, seven per cent with business at seven per cent but later slipped to 7-1/2, 6-1/2 per cent from three per cent offers late yesterday.

Tomorrow and spot-next quotes were also around 7-1/2, 6-1/2 per cent. Liquidity tightened yesterday as banks borrowed to cover the bills.

The fixed periods were quoted at 8-1/8, 7-5/8 per cent for the one through 12-month maturities.

The dinar firmed slightly against the dollar, with the Central Bank fixing its exchange rate at 0.28338/48 from yesterday's 0.28865/75.

Japan set to become second most powerful member of IMF

TOKYO, Feb 7, (UPI): Japan is set to jump from the fifth most powerful member of the International Monetary Fund to the second, reflecting Tokyo's growing economic strength vis-a-vis the United States, the chairman of the IMF interim committee said today.

The United States is reluctant to increase its contribution to the international aid agency, but Japan is willing, said H. Onno Ruding, chairman of the IMF's policy committee and finance minister of the Netherlands.

Japan's added voting strength in the IMF is not likely to alter the fund's policies, but will be a "signal of growing Japanese importance," Ruding said.

Affiliated The IMF is a specialised agency affiliated with the United Nations and designed to stabilise international monetary exchange rates by helping member countries repay their overseas debts.

"If Japan would be invited to make an extra contribution (to the IMF), they would not shy away from the amount," Ruding said a news conference between visits with Japan's top economic leaders.

Ruding also said a meeting of the IMF interim committee in

Washington in April will approve a plan for Japan's Export-Import Bank to offer united loans in parallel with IMF loans. Japan has not announced the size of the parallel loans it is willing to offer.

The United States contributes about 20 per cent of the IMF budget and gets 20 per cent of the voting rights. Japan contributes about five per cent, but wants to increase its contribution to about 6.5 per cent and increase its voting rights accordingly.

Overtaking Currently Britain is the second largest member of the IMF, followed by West Germany, France and Japan.

Japan announced last month it intends to spend more than \$10 billion in 1989 in aid to developing countries, overtaking the United States as the world's largest donor.

Japan has been working to increase its influence in international agencies — including the IMF, the World Bank and the United Nations — to bring its political strength in line with its economic strength.

"I see good prospects for Japan's desire (to increase its power in the IMF)," Ruding said. "The question is when."

Call to set up Islamic common market

ABU DHABI, Feb 7, (KUNA): The Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry opened here today the eighth session of its general assembly and the 14th session of its executive committee.

United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan, in an address to the meeting read out by Economy and Commerce Minister Said Al Jarwan, called on the Islamic countries to establish an Islamic common market for the welfare of Islamic nation.

Need Trade exchange between the 46 member states of the Organisation of Islamic Conference and their share in international trade is very low, Sheikh Zayed said in his address urging Islamic countries to exert more efforts to increase trade exchange between them to pave the way for the establishment of an Islamic common market.

Secretary-general of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Dahat stressed the need for settling the foreign debts of Islamic countries describing it as a political and economic problem.

Dahat hailed the proposal in this connection presented by HH the Amir of Kuwait before the UN General Assembly last September.

Role Commending countries which supported the Amir's initiative, Dahat said some countries such as the United States are impeding alleviating of those burdens which cripple the developing countries.

He called on the rich Islamic countries to co-operate with developing fellow Islamic countries who possess raw material to enable them exploit their resources and save them exporting and re-importing them at high costs.

The change could come as soon as September when the annual IMF meeting is held in Washington, said Tadahiko Nakagawa, of the Export-Import Bank of Japan.

"The fiscal condition of the United States is very, very difficult and the need of the IMF is strong to increase capital strength," Nakagawa said.

"Nobody can stop this trend (of Japan's increasing influence)," Nakagawa said. "They need capital."

Ruding said the United States has opposed calls for increasing member nations contributions to the IMF due to US budget restraints.

Increase Japan's recent increase in the quantity of its financial aid to developing countries is welcome, Ruding said. But the quality of the aid is low, he added.

Only 40 per cent of Japan's official development assistance is given in the form of grants, the rest is given as a loan.

The United States and European countries generally give about 90 per cent of their aid as grants.

"The (Japanese) grant element could be further augmented," Ruding said.

Mohan Menon congratulated

C.S.S. Khanpuri, chairman of NRI Investors' Forum in Kuwait sent a congratulatory cable to K. V. Mohan Menon, ex-vice chairman of the Forum, on his appointment to the NRI Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The cable added that Menon's appointment is seen as a proud recognition of the importance of the NRI Forum.

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Tender No. A 990/C - K.N.P.C. Requirements: Supply, installation & operation of automatic fire protection system.

Further to the notice published in the Official Gazette Al Kuwait Al Youm Issue No. 1805 dated 8.1.1989, the CTC hereby confirms the inclusion of M/s Brown Boveri Electrical Co. in the list of companies qualified to take part in the above tender.

Tender No. A 990/C - K.N.P.C. Requirements: Supply, installation & operation of automatic fire protection system.

Further to the notice published in the Official Gazette Al Kuwait Al Youm Issue No. 1805 dated 8.1.1989, the CTC hereby confirms the inclusion of Al Masela Trdg. Co. in the list of companies qualified to take part in the above tender.

Tender No. MEW/22/4/83/88/9 - MEW/22/4/87/98/99 Requirements: Replacement of fresh & brackish water nets from asbestos to plastic.

Further to the notice published in the Official Gazette Al Kuwait Al Youm Issue No. 1803 dated 25.12.88, the CTC hereby agrees to include M/s Khalifa Dujai Al Dabous & Bros Co. in the list of companies qualified to participate in the above tender.

Corrigenda Tender No. 16-88/89 Requirements: Storing & retrieval of finger prints by computers.

The CTC draws the attention of all concerned that the local agent of Ms De La Rue Printtrak Inc. is M/s Al Nawasi Trdg. Co. and not as erroneously mentioned in Issue No. 1806 dated 15.1.1989.

Tender No. MEW/22/4/82/88/89 Requirements: Digging of water well at north west of Umm Qdair field (Field F).

The CTC draws the attention of all concerned that the local agent is M/s Gulf Deep Foundation & International Contg. Co. and not as erroneously mentioned in Issue No. 1806 dated 15.1.1989.

Central Tenders Committee Prequalification of Contractors

Upon the request of KNPC the CTC announces the works of equipment leakage sealing at the operation units in KNPC refineries as per the description stated below. The

prequalification forms can be obtained from the CTC during working hours as from Sunday, 29.1.1989 against a non-refundable fee of K.D. 50/-.

The closing date for submitting the prequalification forms duly filled in at the CTC shall be Monday, 13.3.1989.

Description of Works: The works to be executed including sealing of leakage of materials flowing in pipes, flanges and valves of different sizes and specifications by means of injecting special materials at the places to be repaired after fixing an auxiliary clip by means of welding or nuts. All these repairs shall be carried out on all items dealt with in the units of chemical, gas and vapour refining and under different operation conditions i.e. temperature and pressure etc.

Ministry of Finance Sale of wooden fishing vessels

The Ministry of Finance hereby announces the sale of some fishing boats available at Doha Port by means of a public auction to be held on 12.00 noon, Tuesday, 7.2.1989 according to the following conditions:

1. The successful bidder shall pay at least 25% of the sale price immediately after adjudication, otherwise he shall bear the brokerage.

2. The adjudicator shall not remove the boat subject of the auction before he pays the price fully.

3. If the adjudicator failed to settle the price balance within three days from the date of adjudication he shall lose his right in 25% of the sale price and his right in the subject boat.

4. The adjudicator shall bear the vessel anchorage charges at the port as from the date of adjudication.

5. If the adjudicator failed to remove the vessel from the port at the time fixed by the committee he shall lose his right in the vessel.

All those interested to take part in the auction are requested to collect a permit from the Authority for attending at the time and place fixed above.

Petrochemical Industries Co. Notice - Local Marketing Agent Required

The Petrochemical Industries Co. hereby announces its intention to have a local agent for marketing the liquid fertilizer used in agriculture

under the trade name (Colifert) according to the conditions provided in the competition document.

All Kuwaiti companies and establishments operating in the agricultural fields can collect the competition document from the company's head office located at Al Kazmi Bldg, 4th Floor, Khalid Ibn Al Waleed St. in Sharq area against a non-refundable fee of K.D. 5/- per each document.

The closing date for accepting the offers shall be Sunday, 26.2.1989.

Shuaiba Area Authority Bidding for supply and delivery of various household furniture

The Shuaiba Area Authority announces the above bidding. Contractors (individuals or companies) registered in the Commercial Register

and at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry of 1989 may obtain the bidding documents from the office of the Director of Purchases & Stores Dept. at the General Admin. of Shuaiba Area Authority during office hours as from this date against a non-refundable fee of K.D. 10/-. An initial guarantee of 5% of the offer shall be attached to the offer.

Offers with final prices shall be submitted to the above address in sealed envelopes not later than, Wednesday, 15.2.1989 and any offer received after the said date shall not be considered.

The authority shall have the right to accept or reject any offer without stating the pertinent reasons.

(To be continued) Provided by M. A. Murali, Al Nana Int. Translation Services (ex-Maradim), Tel. 2429522, 2468413/4, Abdulla Taiki Bldg, 3rd Floor, next to Air India Bldg.

M/S. GHAZWA MAINTENANCE COMPANY

requires the following technical staff:

- 1) Operators Minimum 5 years' experience in Centrifugal Chillers and Hot Water Boilers (Diploma holders and Science Graduates can also apply)
- 2) Refrigeration Technician Minimum 5 years' experience in Cold Rooms and Multi-stage deep freezers.
- 3) Chiller Technician Minimum 5 years' experience in Kuwait having good knowledge in all types of chillers. Only those who have residence permit category No.18 and transferable need apply.

Application forms are available from the reception desk in our Head Office at Souk Al Muttahida, Salhia, 4th Floor or send resume with complete personal data to:

The General Manager P.O. Box 24080, Safat, 13101, Kuwait.

New concept in low-energy home design

Keeping out the cold down under

By Alan Franks

RATHER than studying the ways of the ant in his quest for community wisdom, the aptly-named Peter Carpenter has asped the mole and built a house deep into a bank, with a garden for a roof. But that is only the topsoil of a singular story. To burrow further is to reveal a tale of child-like single-mindedness in a supposedly adult world.

He has just completed, largely with his own bare hands, an eight-bedroom annexe with not a single breath of mechanically generated warmth. Yet it remains at room temperature the whole year round. There is no backup system in case of a power failure, for there is no power to fail.

The Berm House (berm is Old English for bank) at the Caer Llan Field Studies Centre in Lydart, South Wales, is, according to its creator, the first genuinely zero-heated building in the UK.

Although Carpenter, who is also the warden, may be regarded as a woefully uncommercial

An aptly named gentleman in the UK, Peter Carpenter, has just completed with his own bare hands an eight-bedroom annexe, with not a single breath of mechanically generated warmth. Yet it remains at room temperature the whole year round.

creature in many ways, he admits to hoping that his creation will be a prototype for a society as profligate as ours with its finite sources of fuel, and may eventually earn him fame and fortune.

The Berm House stands on the hills above Monmouth like a low castellated rampart of local stone, next to the big old house.

Remind On a bitter winter's day, you enter into the temperate air of the newer block through a corridor. You assume there is a fierce little storage heater somewhere, parting with its hoarded calories, and only when you find no such unit does the sensation become momentarily odd.

You have to remind yourself that you are, technically at least, four feet under, for, unlike a col-

fin, there is an airy vista of the hills around Monmouth through the south facing windows.

These windows are a crucial feature of the design, since Carpenter's concept of a heat-efficient building was based partly on the blissful truth that south-facing windows gain more heat from the sun than they lose in the course of a season.

Avoided Add to that the two deceptively hard tasks of achieving near-perfect insulation, and of installing a heat exchange system which helps to keep the place cool in the summer and warm in the winter, and you have the broad strokes of Carpenter's blueprint.

He first thought about beginning work on the house as long

ago as 1980, but a shortage of cash delayed the start until six years later. In the end it cost him just under £140,000, of which nearly half was provided by a retired lieutenant-commander who had sufficient faith in the project to back it in return for the occupancy of one of the bed-sitting rooms in the annexe.

Several years ago, Carpenter narrowly avoided having to leave Caer Llan altogether when the financial pressure became too great. He was only saved by another act of faith, this time by his parents and a small unexpected bequest.

Yet far from stemming his ambition, the barriers of money seem to exert a pull on him, to the extent that he is now contemplating building a show house — emulating the same principles — buried into the south of the hill above the field centre, and then an enclosed swimming pool next to the new annexe.

For all these operations of apparently Zorbaesque zeal, he is now encouraged by the fact that the Department of Energy is taking him sufficiently seriously to have chosen the Berm House for a profile of the newest developments in low-energy home design, which it is circulating to member nations of the EEC.

It is the almost negligible energy costs of Carpenter's house which have impressed the department. Almost all the electricity consumed is accounted for by lights, televisions and kettles, so that the overall cost of energy is eight times lower than the British target for efficient housing.

Carpenter's rationale remains that of an unabashed ideologist: "I suppose it stems from the fact that I'm trained as a biologist. To me, an energy-efficient society is one which realizes that if a turnip costs 25 calories to grow, in terms of human input, but gives 40 calories back, then turnips are a good thing.

"Yet here we are; we expend thousands of calories distributing food, much of which is nutritionally pretty useless. It makes no sense. In the same way, we want to use fossil fuels —

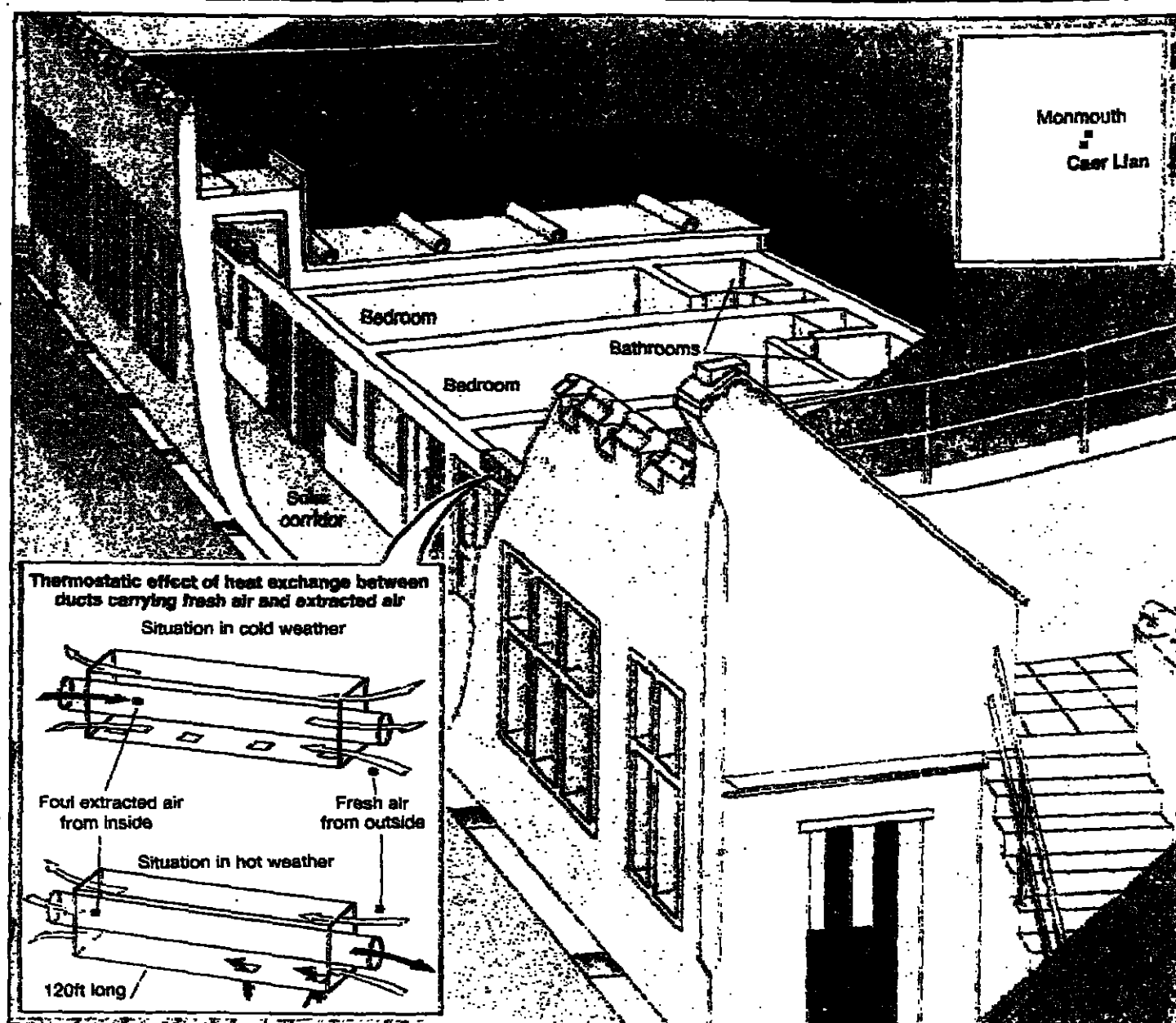


Diagram of the house that Peter Carpenter built.

deposits which have built up over the millennia but which have been plundered at an astonishing rate over the past 200 years — in order to light boilers which will give us back some heat."

Theme He warns to his theme as he speaks. "A plastic spoon is probably the perfect emblem of his lunacy. It costs goodness knows how much to produce, and yet we chuck it away after using it once.

"I want to build houses that will outlive the changing trends in fuel prices. And that is why the crossing of the zero barrier has

been so important. What is the use of a house that halves the amount of, say, oil, needed to heat it, if the price of oil doubles the next day?"

Carpenter draws some encouragement from the fact that designs along similar lines to his own have acquired some credence in the United States. In Britain too there are houses which use a combination of solar heating and the burrow principle, but none, he claims, with such an efficient elimination of heat loss.

One neighbour in Monmouth, who has watched Carpenter put

his ideas into operation over the years, says: "He does appear to be eccentric in a thoroughly English sort of way. But when you look at it closely, he's thoroughly centric, in the sense that he's pragmatic. You or I might think 'Wouldn't it be nice to do such and such,' and simply never get round to doing it. Peter said to himself, 'I'm going to build this damned house if it kills me.' And he just did it. It's tempting to think he's daft, and then you discover that having taught himself plumbing, he now gets called out to help some of the professional plumbers in the

town when they have run into some difficulty."

In its more conventional context the study centre is a headquarters for all manner of courses, from young surveyors learning to use theodolites, to young Americans learning to use English literature.

One regular visitor is the Shakespearean scholar, Professor Fred Stocking, from Williams-town, Massachusetts; he is also a leading authority on the Albert Memorial in Kensington, a building which (even Carpenter agrees) seems to be completely unheatable.



Peter Carpenter overlooking the lawned rooftop of his zero-energy house in South Wales.

'I'm just going shopping ... under the sea'

Dramatic picture of life in the 21st century

By Alex Molloy

THERE is a brave new world just around the corner where life will be free of disease and even humble housework could be a thing of the past.

Christine MacNulty, director of a consultancy firm Applied Futures and a world expert on things to come, says this is a dramatic picture of life in the 21st century.

Men will have a kind of anti-freeze instead of blood so they can build holiday hotels under the sea and unlock the riches hidden under Arctic and Antarctic ice.

She says: "Animals who live in and around the Arctic have a kind of anti-freeze in their blood naturally, so it is perfectly feasible that one day man could have the same kind of thing. But this would happen through diet. It would be perfect for people who work in freezing conditions for long periods.

"Another boom would be for

divers. There are an enormous amount of sub-sea resources in the Arctic. But how do people go about making use of these resources?"

"A great number are under the sea-bed where it is too deep for divers to go. At present only robots can go down that far. And as well as being expensive, there is a limit to what they can do.

Possible "But it is possible to build quarters down there where divers and engineers and geologists can go and live for a short time.

"Eventually there will be sub-sea hotels and even shopping centres. In Japan they are building a hotel under the sea. And there have been passenger submarines in the Caribbean and Japan for some time.

"The construction techniques are already there, such as for the oil rigs in the North Sea and the Channel Tunnel, for example. Within the next 20 years these will be developed to a great

extent. "The Arctic also has huge mineral resources. I expect the North Pole and Antarctica will be used for industrial purposes."

Christine also believes it will not only be scientists who travel to the frozen wastes of the Arctic. She says: "Already people go to the Arctic for holidays.

"There will be a great many more in the future. Surveys on future society show that large numbers of people will be looking for excitement and wanting to break new boundaries."

Medical boundaries are another thing that could be broken in the next century. Christine explains: "Doctors will have had longer to study certain diseases and medical technology will have improved. Diseases that we cannot treat today will be treated quite easily in the future."

Electricity bills could also become a thing of the past if sunlight takes over from light bulbs. Christine explains: "There

is a kind of fibre glass known as optical fibres that can carry light, rather in the way that copper wire carries electrical currents.

"The light transmitted is almost perfect sunlight." Christine believes that by the next century life will not be that different — just a lot easier!

"People will also want more pleasant surroundings and will not want to be confined to box-like houses with box-like rooms. They will want more greenery and light, and will live where they choose to."

There will be no more hoovering and dusting — carpets will clean themselves and special filters will clean the air of dust. Easy-care fabrics will come out of the wash-care-free so ironing will be a thing of the past. And television will be more life-like with 3-D laser holograms that will float images in mid-air without a screen.

Telephones will have video screens so you will be able to see who you are talking to, and

everything you do not want to do yourself can be done by a robot.

Small groups of houses will be built under glass domes that have computer-controlled weather. And the size of rooms can be extended by moving the walls backwards and forwards at the touch of a button.

Christine also sees a change in the attitude of people. She says: "Many women will be taking time off work to have children, and then going back to work. But the role of wife and mother will also be considered very important, perhaps more important than today."

"Governments will have much more concern for their people on spiritual, psychological and physical levels. And crime rates will go down as people's values change. And advanced security will mean less crime."

"Of course, it won't all happen instantly.

"But the general outlook for the future seems rosy, with lots more optimism..."

'Chix in space' experiment to fly on next shuttle

There's nobody here except us chickens ...

By Deborah Zabarenko

WASHINGTON. (Reuters) — When the space shuttle Discovery blasts off this month, 32 chicken embryos will be aboard, part of an experiment to determine whether chickens — and possibly humans — would develop better in weightless conditions.

The title of the experiment is "Chix in space" and the student who designed it, John Vellinger, chuckles a bit as he presents a demonstration model of what looks like the world's most high-tech lunchbox.

But Vellinger has a serious aim — to find out whether gravity has an effect on embryology, and whether developing in the weightlessness of earth orbit would change the way organisms are put together.

"A little story I like to tell is the heart develops in a baby chick on the second day," Vellinger said. "On the fourth day, the baby chick turns (inside the eggshell) and the heart drops."

"The same thing happens to you and I. That's why our heart's not in the centre of our body, it tends to get a little towards the left side.

Is the earth the best place to have children, or is space a better frontier? Thirty-two chicken embryos will accompany the space shuttle Discovery this month as part of an experiment to determine whether chickens — and possibly humans — would develop better in weightless conditions.

"What's going to happen up in space when that baby chick turns? Is heart going to drop, or not? It doesn't have gravity to pull it down."

Reasoned Vellinger reasoned that since crystals have been shown to grow better in space, perhaps living things would, too.

Chicken eggs were chosen because they are easily transportable embryos to take aboard the shuttle, but Vellinger's curiosity goes far beyond farmyard animals.

"Is earth the best place to have children?" he asks. "Or is space a better frontier?"

Vellinger, a senior student at Purdue University in Indiana, developed the experiment as a high school pupil, and an earlier version of "Chix in Space" was on the doomed shuttle Challenger in January 1986.

He first won the shuttle berth in a competition sponsored by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Teachers' Association.

Since then he has refined the incubator that will hold the fertilised chicken eggs, installing a heat and temperature monitor and adding a humidity control system, with help from his sponsor, the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant chain.

The unit, which has a transparent plastic door, will hold 32 eggs — 16 two-day-old embryos and 16 nine-day-old embryos — cradled on foam shelves. Heating strips similar to those in an electric blanket line the sides of the box and a fan circulates the air.

"I had to build and design this incubator to mimic the back of a barnyard," Vellinger said.

For the experiment to work properly astronauts on Discovery's five-day flight will have to open up a hatch on the incubator seven times to let oxygen inside. The flight is due to begin on February 23.

As a control to the 32 eggs aloft, there will also be another 32 in an identical incubator on the ground.

Half the embryos in each age group in each incubator will be removed after the shuttle lands. The others will be allowed to hatch naturally and tracked throughout their lives.

Vellinger said he would look for differences in the degree of embryo development, the nature of bone calcification and the development of the inner ear — all questions which could be applied to human embryos as well.

He acknowledges that such an experiment with human embryos is not even on the horizon, but he looks forward to a study that could be performed on a longer shuttle flight or aboard an orbiting space station, where hens would be brought aloft.

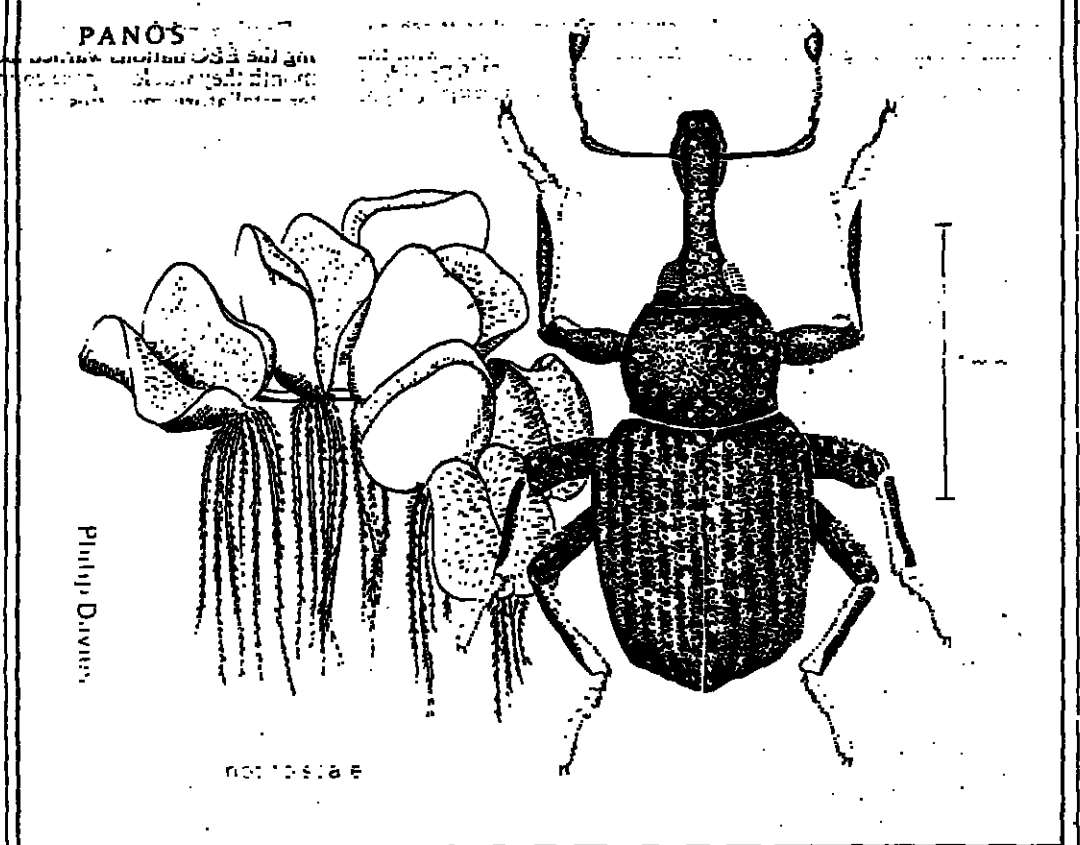
"Instead of having it up in space for just five days, I think it'd be ideal to maybe send up a couple of hens, have the conception process take place in space and have the chickens hatch," he said.

Vellinger's is one of two student experiments slated for the Discovery flight — the other is on bone-healing in rats — along with other experiments on protein crystal growth, plant growth, and an optical study for the Air Force.

The shuttle's main payload is a 100 million dollar tracking and data relay satellite.

Despite the sophisticated scientific nature of Vellinger's study, he said, his greatest challenge was how to keep the eggs from breaking.

His incubator easily passed the vibration tests for the space shuttle, Vellinger said. The real refinements were made so it could be safely transported on ordinary airlines.



A weed Salvinia molesta and the beetle that controls it.

Bug keeps choking weed in check

By Malika Wanigasundara

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka: An Australian scientist arrived in Sri Lanka in 1984 with a curious consignment in two small boxes: 4,000 live weevils. He was not turned away, because his weevils are a natural enemy of "Salvinia molesta", a devastating species of water weed which has been choking waterways in Sri Lanka and many other countries.

Dr Peter Room, from the Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), had already successfully used this tiny weevil — Cyrtobagous salviniae, its scientific name — in the control of salvinia in Australia and Papua New Guinea. He has since been helping Sri Lanka to use the ravenous little bug.

Salvinia grows profusely in reservoirs, rivers, tanks and paddy fields, causing grave problems for the island.

In water, the weed blocks off light and oxygen, killing fish and water-life.

Boats cannot sail through the matted weed. It interferes with inland fishing. It is a threat to the newly-built irrigation reservoirs of the giant Mahaweli River diversion scheme, where excessive salvinia could

block flood gates and sluices. Hand and mechanical weeding are too costly; in any case the salvinia reappears fast. Herbicide spraying is equally expensive at around Rs6000 (US\$200) per acre. Herbicides would also kill fish and have other adverse environmental effects.

But a team of scientists from the University of Kelaniya, near Colombo, has bred Room's weevils in their thousands and let them loose in salvinia-infested areas — with considerable success.

Tiny

Dr Ivor Fernando, a senior lecturer and entomologist at the university, says that the team first introduced 200 of the weevils into the Bathuluoya River, in the north-west, in April 1987. Within 10 months the salvinia had vanished completely, where earlier it had covered large expanses of water.

The weevil has since been introduced into 70 infested water bodies, and Fernando says that, in the case of 40, the weed has completely disappeared or will do so soon.

In other areas, elimination has been slower. Low levels of nitrogen slow the weevil's rate of reproduction, and in Papua New Guinea, Room found he had to add a little fertiliser to

surrounding areas to boost their growth.

The insect is a tiny creature only three millimetres long, resembling a rice weevil. It is a highly specialised insect with a voracious appetite, but is entirely fastidious about its diet — feeding only on Salvinia molesta. It would rather die than eat any other plant — even a closely related species like Salvinia auriculata is untouched.

Biological controls like the Cyrtobagous beetle are cheap and self-perpetuating, says Fernando.

Tests have been done in Australia and at the Agricultural Research Institute in Gannoruwa, Sri Lanka, to ensure that the weevil does not harm other plants or fish.

In Australia the weevil was screened against 46 species of plants — rice, wheat, potatoes, vegetables, lilies, and grasses — for adverse effects.

But in Sri Lanka another problem is now cropping up: where the salvinia has vanished, other water weeds such as water hyacinth, hydrilla and water lilies are taking over.

"It would be a waste if our work is undone in this way," says Fernando. What the country now needs, he notes, is a national aquatic weed control centre to keep the problem under check. Panos Features

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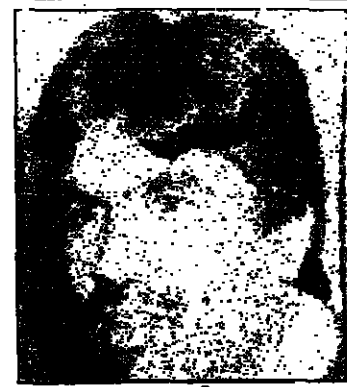
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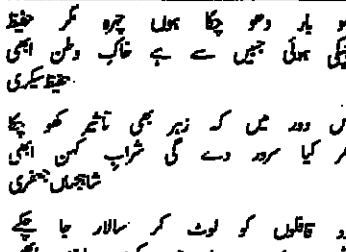
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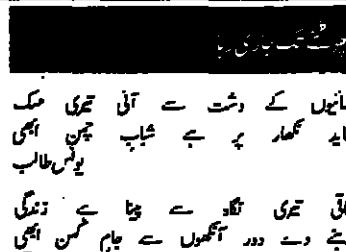
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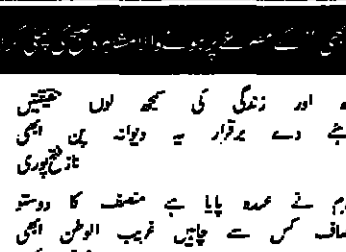
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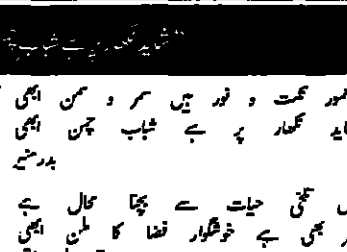
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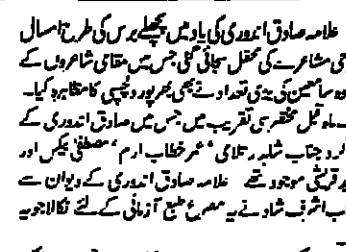
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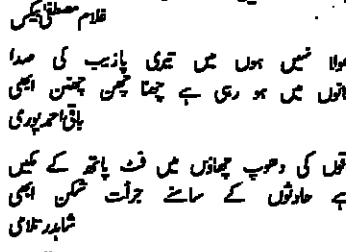
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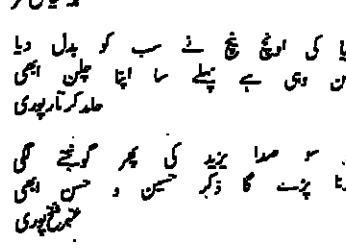
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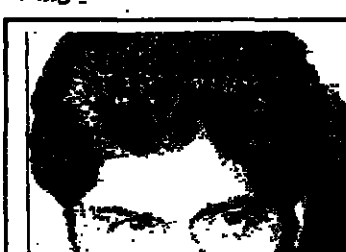
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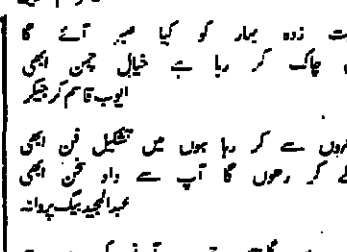
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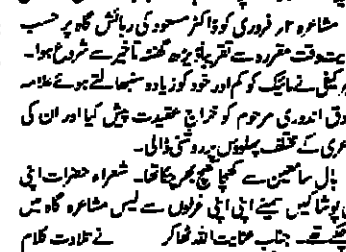
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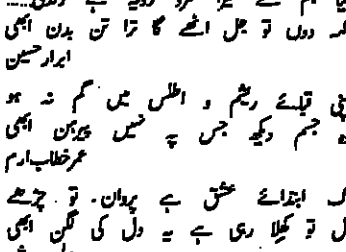
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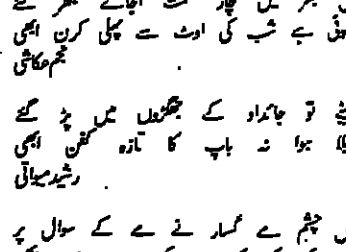
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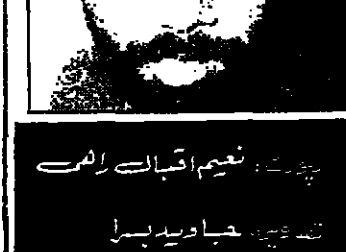
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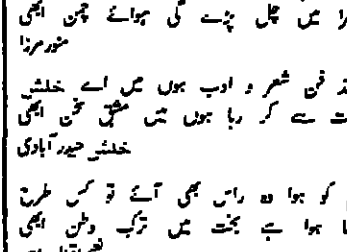
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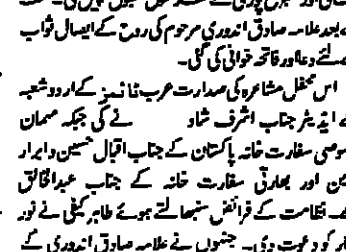
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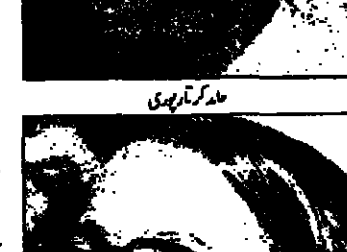
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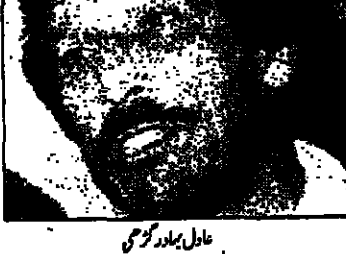
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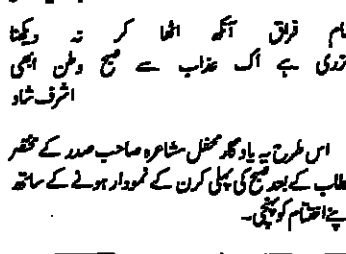
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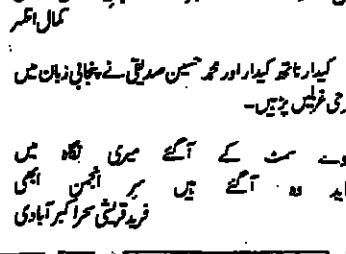
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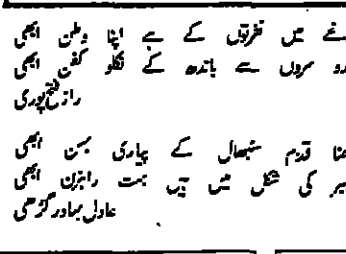
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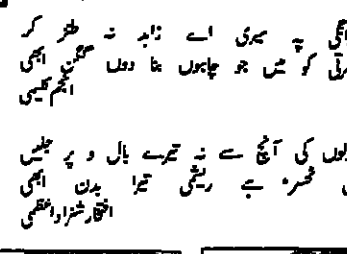
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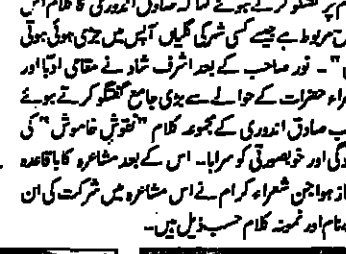
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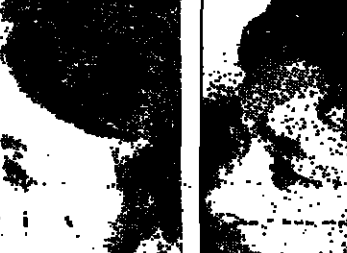
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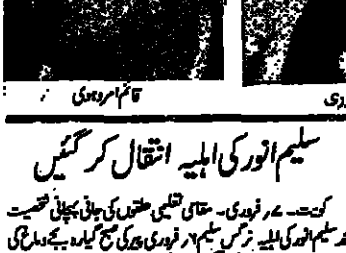
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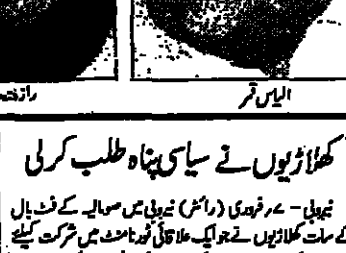
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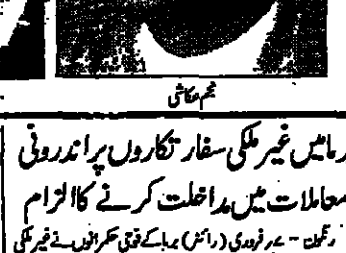
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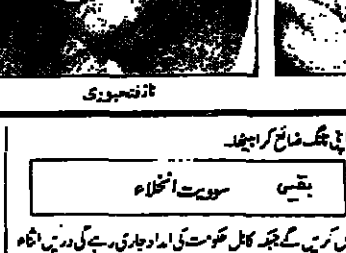
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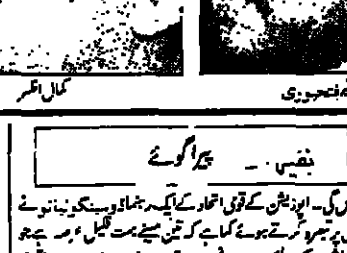
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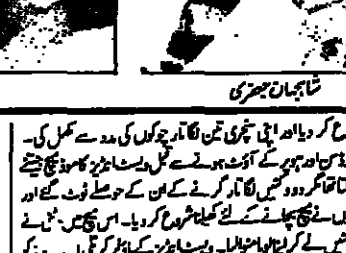
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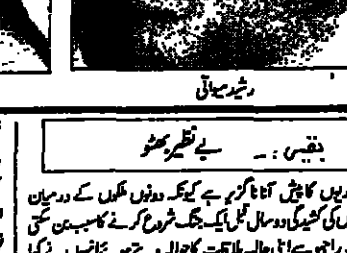
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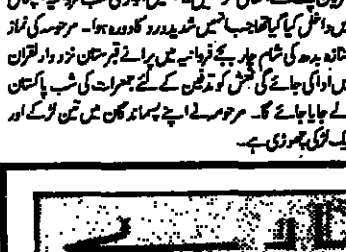
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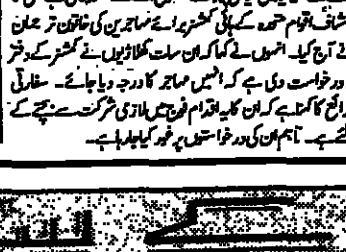
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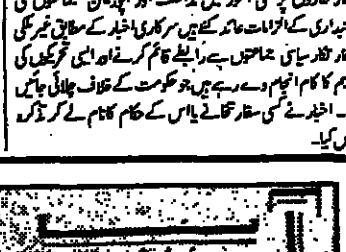
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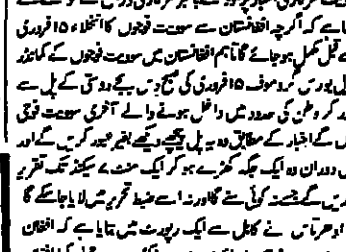
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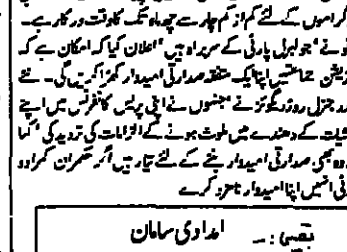
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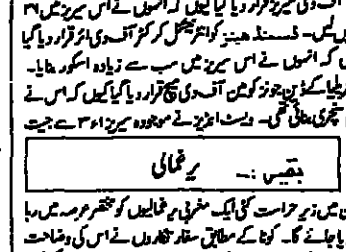
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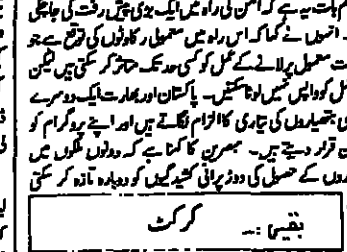
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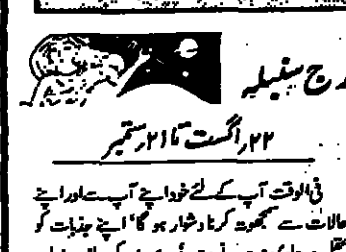
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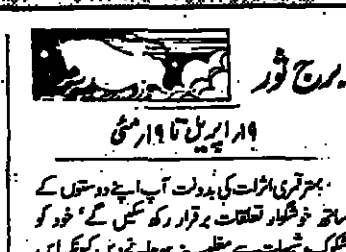
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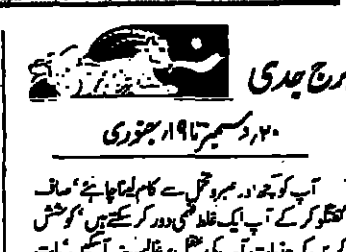
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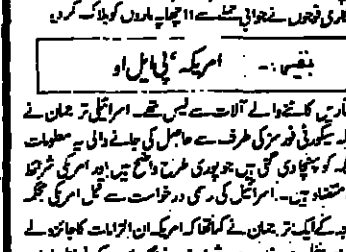
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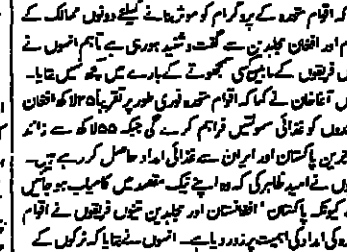
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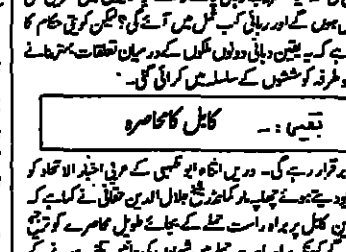
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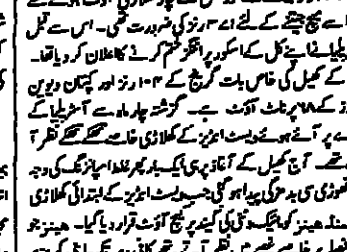
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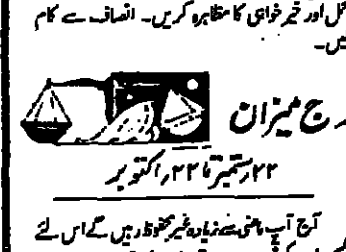
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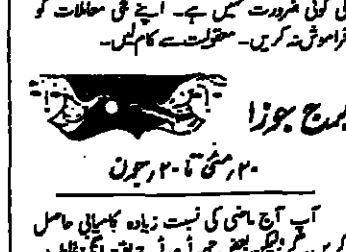
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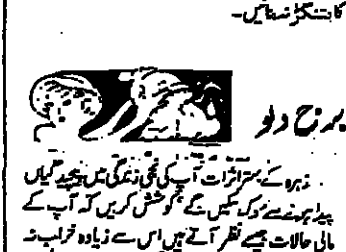
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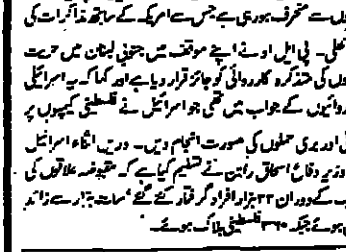
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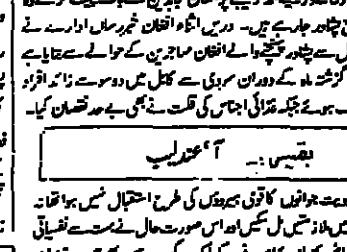
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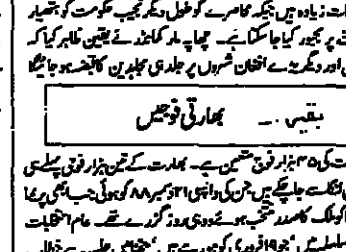
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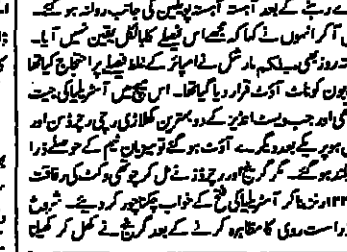
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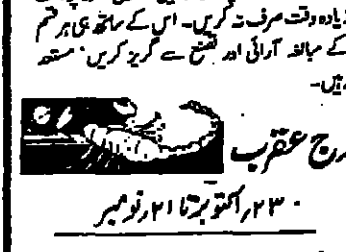
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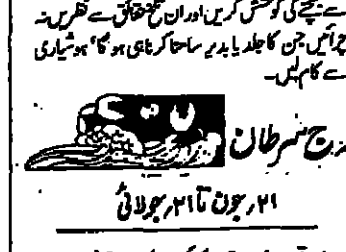
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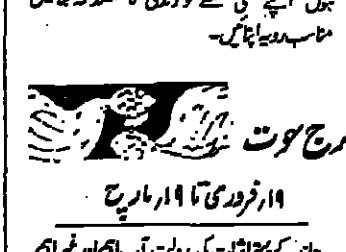
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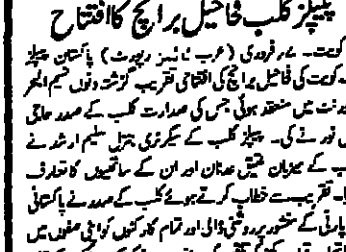
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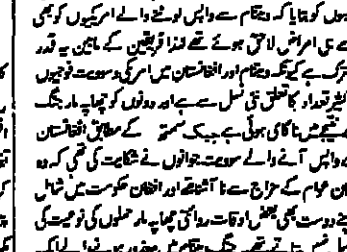
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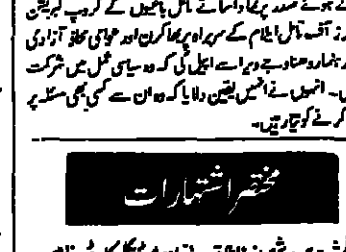
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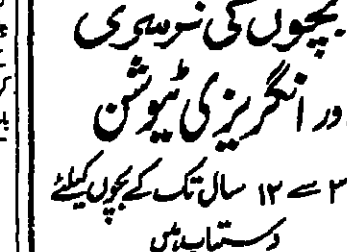
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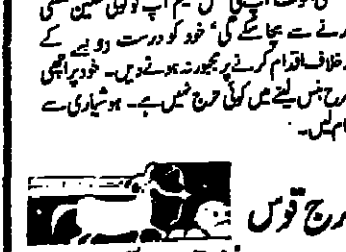
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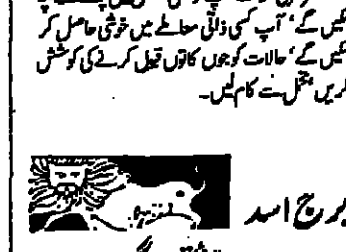
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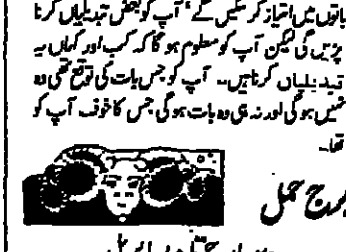
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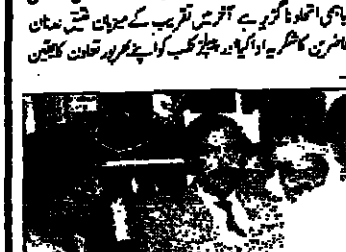
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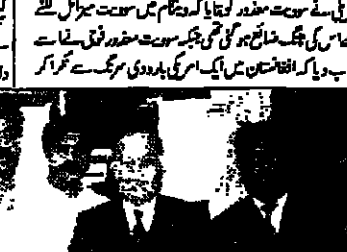
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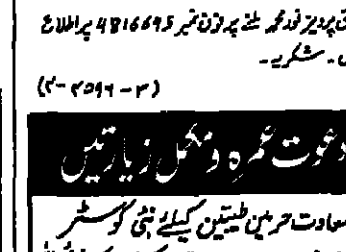
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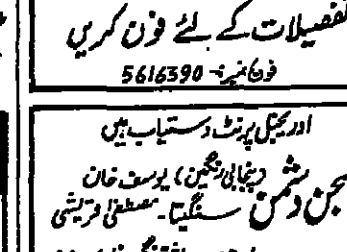
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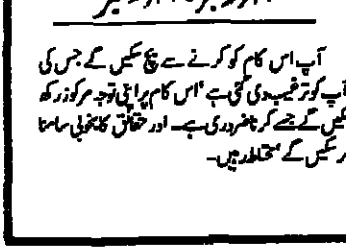
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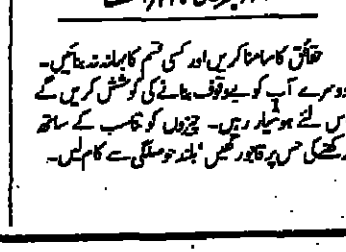
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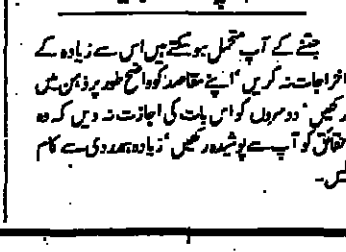
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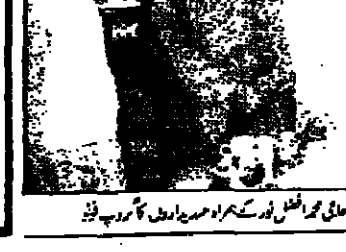
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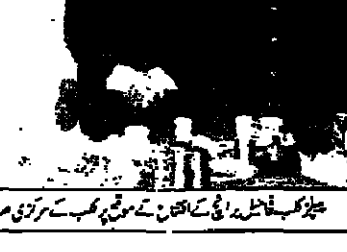
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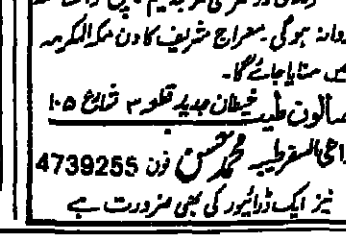
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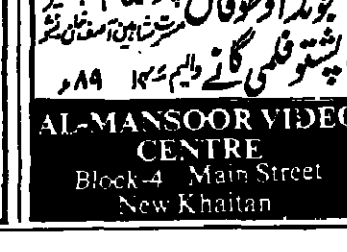
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مشرق و مکی میں شاخ ہونے والا ہنس لاؤرد و اخبار
عرب ٹائمز

پیر ۲۰ رجب ۱۴۰۹ھ ۸ فروری ۱۹۸۹ء چیف ایڈیٹر احمد جارا اللہ

کاش میں متوقع طویل محاصرے سے منجھے گی تیاریاں تفرق کر دیں

کابل - برقی فوجی (انٹرنیٹ) افواج برسرِ کار ہیں۔ کابل کے قریب سے دہرا گورنر کے متعلق خبریں سامنے آ رہی ہیں۔ یہاں سے کابل کی طرف سولہ ہزار "P" کے ٹانے مارے جا رہے ہیں۔

پاک فوجیوں نے انٹرنیٹ کے ذریعے کابل کے قریب واقع کابل کی طرف سے دہرا گورنر کے متعلق خبریں سامنے آ رہی ہیں۔ یہاں سے کابل کی طرف سولہ ہزار "P" کے ٹانے مارے جا رہے ہیں۔

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ایمان کی بات ہے کہ اللہ تعالیٰ ہماری ہر بات کو سنا رہا ہے۔ اس لیے ہمیں اپنے آپ کو اللہ کے سامنے پیش کرنا چاہیے۔ اگر ہم اللہ سے بات کریں گے تو اللہ ہم سے بات کرے گا۔ اللہ ہماری ہر بات کو سنا رہا ہے۔ اس لیے ہمیں اپنے آپ کو اللہ کے سامنے پیش کرنا چاہیے۔ اگر ہم اللہ سے بات کریں گے تو اللہ ہم سے بات کرے گا۔

فرانس نے ایران سے مغربی ری غمالیہ

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SPORTS

Mavericks outclass Clippers

NEW YORK, Feb. 7, (AP): The Los Angeles Clippers moved to the brink of tying the NBA's single-season losing streak last night, dropping their 19th straight game as Mark Aguirre and Sam Perkins keyed the Dallas Mavericks to a 129-111 victory.

Aguirre scored 16 of his 24 points in third quarter as the Mavericks outscored the Clippers 41-18, going from a 49-54 halftime deficit to a 95-77 lead.

Perkins scored 26 points and Rolando Blackmon, who missed the last four games with a dislocated finger, had 19 for the Mavericks, who snapped a 10-game road losing streak.

In the only other National Basketball Association game last night, Phoenix routed Utah 104-87.

The single-season losing streak of 20 games was set by the 1972-73 Philadelphia 76ers. The Clippers can match that mark tomorrow night when they play host to the Houston Rockets.

The Clippers' franchise record losing streak of 19 games was set late in the 1981-82 season when the club was in San Diego.

Charles Smith led the Clippers with 23 points.

Suns 104, Jazz 87

Tom Chambers scored 11 of his 24 points in the fourth period as Phoenix averted a second-half collapse and posted its 28th victory, matching last year's total.

Phoenix led 66-45 with 7:02 left in the third quarter before a 20-6 Utah burst trimmed it to 72-65. The Suns opened the fourth quarter with an 8-0 run, with Chambers hitting four free throws. Chambers added a three-point play, a layup and a jumper before Gilbert's stuff with 3:42 left made it 97-75.

Aron Gilman had 22 points and 11 rebounds, Kevin Johnson 19 points and 12 assists and Mark West 12 rebounds for Phoenix. Karl Malone led the Jazz with 19 points.

Australians take titles in Finnish Open

HELSINKI, Feb. 7, (Reuters): Rodney Martin and Liz Irving gave Australia a double in the Finnish Open squash tournament yesterday by winning the men's and women's titles.

Martin, the top seed, beat second-seeded Umar Hayat Khan of Pakistan and Irving upset the form book by beating top-seeded Lisa Opie of England.

Martin, ranked sixth in the world, beat Umar 15-7 15-9 14-15 15-10 in a fast and furious match dominated by muscle-stretching low shots.

The rallies were so short and sharp because he hits the ball so hard and low. At the same time I don't think he was expecting some of those balls to come back," said Martin after the match which earned him \$5,400.

Built

Irving, ranked fourth in the world, took the women's title in a nail-biting finish.

She built a 12-8 lead in the deciding game, but a loss of concentration and a bad miss allowed Opie, the world number two, to go 13-12 ahead before Irving recovered to take the \$1,500 first prize.

Irving said matches between herself and Opie were always close because "we are both erratic, inspirational players."

HAYNES VOTED INTERNATIONAL CRICKETER OF THE YEAR

Greenidge guides West Indies to draw

ADELAIDE, Australia, Feb. 7, (Reuters): Opener Gordon Greenidge, in probably his last game in Australia, scored his first Test century in five tours to guide West Indies to a draw in the fifth and final Test today.

At close of play, 30 minutes earlier than scheduled after the captains agreed no result was possible, West Indies were 233 for four in their second innings after being set 371 to win. Greenidge hit 104 and Viv Richards 68 not out.

Australia had earlier declared at their overnight score of 224 for four wickets. West Indies won the series 3-1.

Anger

For the second successive day a West Indian player, perhaps feeling the effects of four months on tour, expressed anger at what he believed was an umpiring error.

With the score on 21 for no wicket Desmond Haynes drove at a ball from left-arm Mike Whitney and was given out caught behind by Ric Evans, umpiring his first Test.

Haynes, visibly enraged by the decision, stood his ground for several seconds before walking off slowly. "I can't believe this at all," he shouted on arriving back in the dressing room. Haynes scored 15.

Yesterday, West Indian pace bowler Malcolm Marshall seemed to shout and swear at the umpire, Peter McConnell, after the official gave Australia's David Boon not out for a catch.

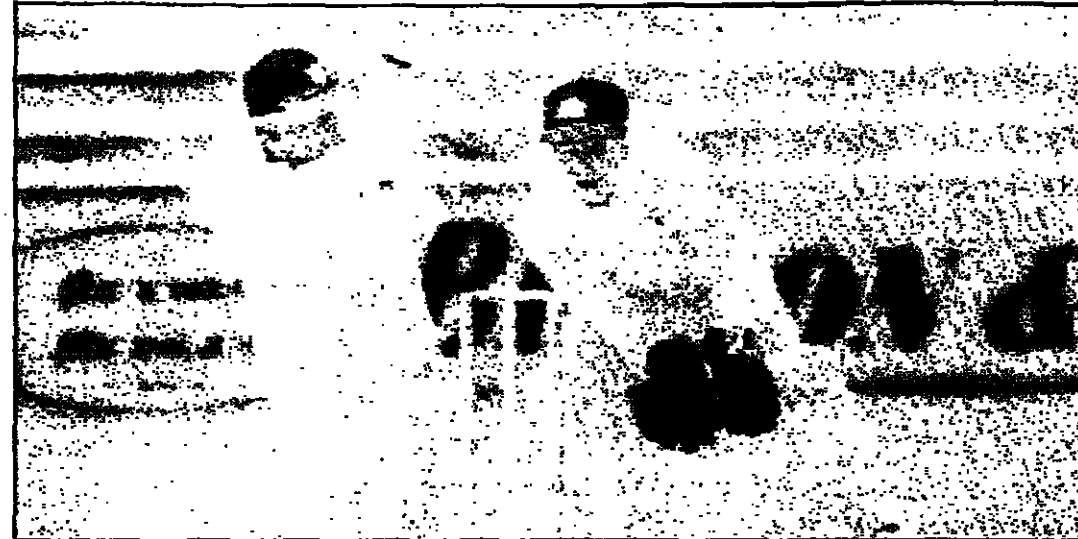
Australia, seeking successive Test wins in the same series for the first time since 1982-3, had a good chance of winning for a short period after lunch when they dismissed Richie Richardson and Carl Hooper in the space of two runs.

But Greenidge and Richards, coming together at 89 for three, steadied the innings with 123 for the fourth wicket to snuff out Australia's hopes.

Greenidge, 37, is unlikely to tour Australia in 1992. The right-hander's previous highest Test score was 95 in Adelaide on the 1984-5 tour although he hit 140 for a World XI in a "Supertest" against Australia in 1977-8.

After helping to score 21 off the first four overs Greenidge curbed his natural aggression, hitting eight fours before reaching three figures with a boundary through mid-wicket. Clearly moved, Greenidge was embraced by Richards as the spectators afforded him a standing ovation.

The opener added just one more run before David Boon gave spinner Tim May his second



Greenidge flicks a shot off his boots as Australian wicketkeeper fields behind the stumps during action on the last day. (Reuters wirephoto)

wicket of the innings, catching Greenidge at short-leg off bat and pad.

Richards, like Greenidge, was happy to wait for the bad ball to hit. The West Indies captain struck four fours in his 50 which took 109 balls.

West Indies seemed interested in trying to score the 371 runs needed for victory until the dismissal of Richardson and Hooper.

Two balls after lunch Richardson prodded at an outswinger from Mike Whitney to give Allan Border a hard catch diving to his left at second slip. Richardson scored 22. Whitney finished with nine wickets in the match.

The out-of-form Carl Hooper lasted 15 minutes before he was out for a duck, playing on to a delivery from spinner Tim May.

West Indian paceman Curtly Ambrose was voted Man of the Series after taking 26 wickets in the five Tests while Haynes was voted International Cricketer of the Year after two Test centuries this summer.

Haynes became West Indies' top run-scorer in Tests in Australia, scoring 536 runs to overtake Rohan Kanhai who hit 503 runs on the 1960/61 tour.

Meanwhile, the West Indies Cricket Control Board announced yesterday that Richards will lead his country in the forthcoming home Test and one-day series against India.

India begin their tour of the Caribbean on Feb. 26.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings 515
WEST INDIES first innings 369
AUSTRALIA second innings (overnight 224 for four)

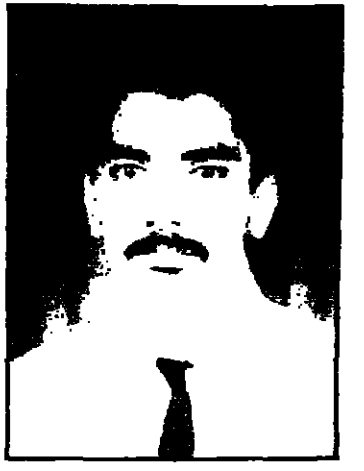
G. Marsh c Deon b Ambrose 79
M. Taylor run out 55
D. Boon not out 55
D. Jones lbw b Richards 6
S. Waugh run out 8
A. Border not out 6
Extras (b-11 lb-13 nb-10) 34
Total (for four wickets) 224—Declared
Fall of wickets: 1-98 2-176 3-187 4-213

Bowling: Marshall 12-2-30-0 (2ab), Ambrose 15-2-44-1 (4ab), Walsh 13-2-26-0, Patterson 8-1-29-0 (4ab), Richards 24-3-64-1, Hooper 3-1-7-0.

WEST INDIES second innings
G. Greenidge c Boon b May 104
D. Haynes c Healy b Whitney 15
R. Richardson c Border b Whitney 22
C. Hooper b May 2
V. Richards not out 68
A. Logie not out 2
Extras (b-11 lb-13 nb-11) 22
Total (for four wickets) 233
Fall of wickets: 1-21 2-87 3-89 4-212

Did not bat: J. Dujon, M. Marshall, C. Ambrose, C. Walsh, P. Patterson.
Bowling: Hughes 9-5-20-0 (1w), Whitney 28-4-66-2 (4ab), Waugh 9-3-23-0, Hobbs 15-3-56-0, May 23-2-60-2 (7ab), Border 5-0-3-0.

Awami score easy win over Super Royal



Mustafa: hit 62

AWAMI Cricket Club crushed Super Royal Cricket Club by six wickets in a Morning Star Trophy match earlier this week at the Morning Star ground.

Super Royal batted first after winning the toss. They opened their innings through Raiz and Ali who put on 112 runs for the first wicket.

Raiz hammered 65 runs while Ali batted well for his 57 as Super Royal went on to score 169 for the loss of five wickets in their 22 allotted overs.

Opened

For Awai, Imtiaz was the main wicket-taker with two scalps.

Awami opened their innings through Mustafa and Latif. Both the openers scored at will, hitting all the Super Royal bowlers to all parts of the ground. They put on 119 runs for the first wicket.

Both the openers hit 62 runs each and made things easy for the other batsmen who completed Awami's victory in 18.4 overs. Awami only lost four wickets.

Rampaging Tigers maul Pirates

TIGERS outplayed Pirates 15-11 as the last half of a very exciting Kuwait Little League season started on Friday with a larger T-ball and minor League field.

The Pirates and Tigers started off the day with a remarkable game. It looked like the Tigers were going to sweep the Pirates right off the field. The first inning showed the Tigers ahead 6-2. Ridha Behbehani had a double, driving in one run. Jacob and Nora each got on base and earned an RBI for their effort. But the Pirates were not finished. They must go off to a slow start.

In the fourth inning the Pirates came alive getting 7 runs. Nicholas Anderson, Joshua and John each earned an RBI with their singles. Khairy brought in two more runs with his double.

Up next were the Royals and the Cardinals, two equally matched teams. Both pitchers, Peter

Punj for the Cardinals and Jason Zepin for the Royals, did a great job. The Royals hitters were Shemlan Khajah, who had a single in the first inning and a home run in the final inning bringing in two runs.

Great

Sommer Al Nasrallah had a double and a single, earning her two RBIs. The Cardinals had some great hitters too. Jihad Sakleh had an in the park home run in the second inning driving in two runs. Hisham Navarro had an over the fence home run driving in three runs.

The game was an exciting one right down to the wire but the Cardinals held on to win with 9 runs to the Royals 6.

While the Royals and Cardinals were battling it out on field, the Cubs and Indians were going at it on field two. Everyone

was a hitter on these two teams by the looks of the score sheet. Majed Al Mulla earned two RBIs with his base hit along with Ahmed Afani. Mishal Al Khabbaz had a home run in the third inning for the Indians.

The Cubs had their share of heavy hitters starting with Jordan van Rye's triple bringing in 3 runs. Ali had a home run in the third inning bringing in 2 runs. Nadir had a triple bringing in three runs with Afia's triple bringing in one run. The Cubs ended up the winners 25-20.

The Astros had a tough day. Ziad Sakleh and Rahman had the only hits for their team. Rahman earned one RBI for his effort. The Mets came to win and in the first inning they scored five runs. The big hitters for the Mets were: Tareq earning 2 RBIs.

RBI's and Raed with a single driving in a run. The Mets kept scoring and when the time ran out it was the Mets 12, Astros 2.

The Senior League teams battled it out in the wind and cold. White Sox pitcher Tomohiro did another great job for his team. His excellent pitching only allowed 2 walks, striking out 9 batters.

Singled

Catcher Erik Fox hit a triple in the first inning bringing in 2 runs. Scott Fortes had two doubles earning one RBI. Tarek singled and brought in a run for his team.

The Red Sox did their best. Third baseman Thari had two doubles and earned one RBI. Other hitters were Jeff McKasson, Robby, Yusuf and Hussein. At the end of four innings the score was White Sox 11, Red Sox 9.

Hubara rout BKME for Pat Keely Trophy final

HUBARA reached the final of Pat Keely Trophy cricket tournament with a seven-wicket victory over BKME at Ahmadi over the weekend. This was the third time both the teams have met in as many weeks. BKME and Hubara had won one game each before this match.

BKME won the toss and elected to bat, opening their innings through Ramesh and Arya. The latter did not last long as he was out in the second over, brilliantly caught by Tony Stein off Jimmy James for only one run.

Damage

BKME were put under more pressure by Hubara when Patrick Flower bowled Masood to make the score 15 for two. It was Flower again who did the damage one run later when he removed the luckless Ramesh for nine.

James of BKME and Bastaki tried to put their team into a better position but the former was soon out. BKME were 25 for four at this stage. Bastaki and Salim tried to take the initiative away from the Hubara bowlers but a fine piece of bowling by Dave Brady, coupled with a fantastic catch by wicketkeeper

John MacConville, broke this stand.

The remainder of the BKME batsmen were never comfortable against the Hubara bowlers and BKME stuttered to 104 for seven by the end of the allotted overs.

Hubara opened their innings through a new pair, Craig Shipton and Nick Elphinstone—who had been performing well over the last two weeks.

Elphinstone was unlucky to be run out for 1 with the score only five runs. Flower and Shipton then figured in a 45-run stand before the former was caught for 19 off Tariq.

James, replacing Flower, speeded up the run-rate by hitting a quick 23. His innings put Hubara totally in control of the match and made things easier for the remaining batsmen. James was caught on the boundary while going for a big hit.

Shipton completed the formalities by taking his team past the victory target without any further loss.

Hubara will now meet Hawks in the final at a date to be set by the organisers. Hawks beat Galaxy by six wickets in the other semifinal.

YMCA brush aside Al Mulla

YOUNG Men Cultural Association (YMCA) thrashed Al Mulla by 67 runs in a Mitsubishi Cricket League match, organised by the Unity Cricketers, at the KOC Ahmadi Ground on Friday.

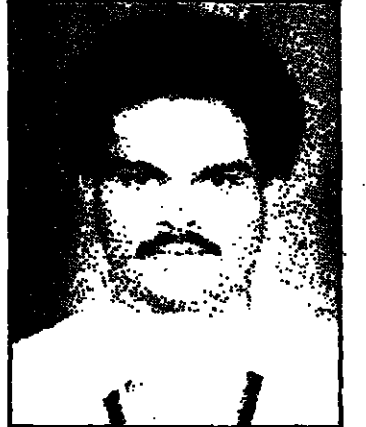
In the other matches of the same tournament, Starlite beat KIFCO on better run-rate while Kokan hammered Bright Stars by 64 runs.

Losing

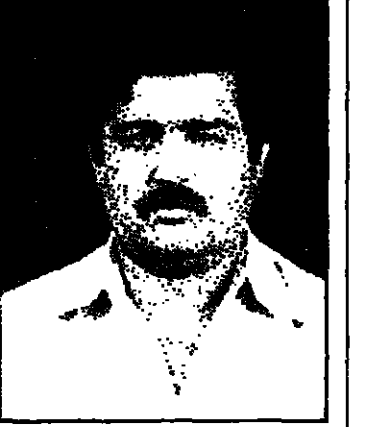
YMCA won the toss and opted to bat. They were off to a bad start, losing one of their openers with only four runs on the board. Sajid was out a few runs later to put YMCA in more trouble.

Hafiz and Sandeep lifted YMCA out of the doldrums by putting on 88 runs for the third wicket. Hafiz hit a six and seven fours before he was out for 50. Sandeep remained unbeaten on 107 and Ambrose hit 40 as YMCA scored 214 for five.

Al Mulla found the going difficult and were all out for 147.



Sandeep: unbeaten 107



Maqsood: quick 78

LOCAL CRICKET CCK cruise past Rangers

CCK thrashed Rangers by 84 runs in a friendly match at the EPI ground on Friday.

Rangers put CCK in to bat but they must have regretted this decision as CCK put on 182 runs for the loss of three wickets in 28 overs.

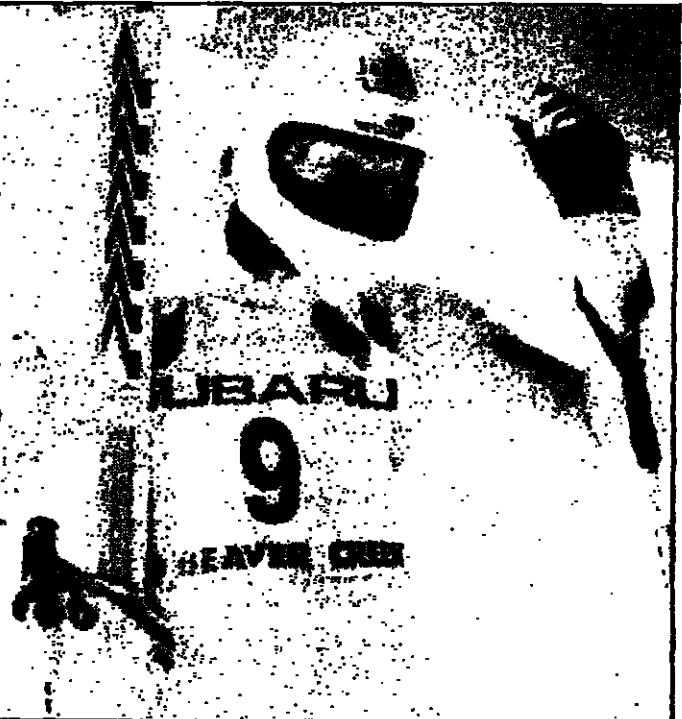
Raees was in tremendous form, hitting the Rangers bowlers all over the ground while Zabeer hammered all the loose balls to the boundary. Both the batsmen scored 72 each.

Manage

Rangers found the scoring difficult against an accurate CCK bowling and could manage only 98 runs before the whole team was back in the pavilion.

Zabeer was the main wicket-taker for CCK with three scalps while Fawaz and Faisal got two each and Rifat one.

Ajmal hit 33 for Rangers while Khalid scored 27.



Tauscher releases his hand in excitement after crossing the finish line. (Reuters wirephoto)

West German outsider overcomes Swiss might

VAIL, Colorado, Feb. 7, (Reuters): Unheralded West German Hansjoerg Tauscher upstaged the formidable Swiss team yesterday to capture the men's downhill, blue ribbon event of the Alpine Skiing World Championships.

Tauscher, who had never finished in a top 10 entering this World Cup season, resisted one challenge after another from the mighty Swiss on the Beaver Creek centennial track to clinch the gold.

Defending champion Peter Mueller had to settle for the silver medal as he did in the last two Olympic Games and fellow Swiss Karl Alpgier claimed the bronze, repeating his performance in the last world championships in 1987.

The Swiss, who filled five of the top six places on home snow in Crans-Montana in 1987, had four in the top five but none could match 21-year-old Tauscher.

Olympic champion Pirmin

Zurbriegen and top contender Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg failed to make the top 10 in a race postponed from Saturday when heavy snowfalls made racing impossible.

Daniel Mahrer, second away, was the early pace-setter, setting a time which resisted the challenges of 1980 Olympic champion Leonhard Stock of Austria, Girardelli and—by a whisker—young Swiss teammate William Besse.

Setting

But Tauscher changed the picture in the race of his life, setting out ninth in the order, the start number which brought Swiss defending champion Maria Walliser the women's crown on Sunday.

The West German did not get away fast and was ninth of nine on the first split, but he accelerated down the 3,480-metre track, moving from fifth to fourth to third and snatching first at the last gap in two minutes 10.39 seconds.

Bruno has no chance against Tyson: champion's trainer

LAS VEGAS, Feb. 7, (Reuters): Frank Bruno could not beat Mike Tyson even if the heavyweight champion's cornermen told the British challenger what to do, Tyson's new trainer said yesterday.

Jay Bright, brought in by Tyson just two weeks ago to train the champion for his February 25 defence here against Bruno, was careful to praise the challenger as a worthy opponent.

But it is clear Bright believes the main problem facing the 22-year-old Tyson is motivation. That was chiefly why the relatively inexperienced Bright—a close friend of Tyson—joined the camp.

When prodded about Bruno's chances against the undefeated Tyson, Bright told Reuters: "Even if I told you what Frank Bruno could do, he wouldn't be relaxed enough to remain in position to do it."

"At the end of the fight I want Frank Bruno to be the only person in the entire arena to be able to tell you exactly how many lights are over the ring," said Bright with a big smile.

"Bruno is like most British fighters with his chin up in the air," Bright said. "It's a style that's very vulnerable."

Bright, 30, said he was told before he arrived that "there was a little bit of a problem with Tyson's training."

After being prodded, he said



Tyson (left) and Bruno.

cautiously. "Well, he was being just a little bit lazy. Everyone has to have desire."

"Maybe me being here talking to him rekindled some of the excitement," said Bright, who lived with Tyson in the home of his late trainer, Cus D'Amato, in upstate New York and considers Tyson to be like a brother.

Bright replaced interim trainer Aaron Snowell, hired after Tyson fired long-time cornerman Kevin Rooney. Rooney angered the champion by making public comments about Tyson's personal life.

Bright, nursing a painful bruise on his arm after an over-exuberant Tyson accidentally punched him during a drill on Sunday, said one of the weapons

not affected when his personal problems were gaining steam last June, just before he destroyed Michael Spinks, they would not interfere in his bout with Bruno.

Bright, who was a struggling actor and part-time trainer of amateur boxers before joining Tyson, repeated a refrain of the champion's camp: Tyson has not come close to reaching his potential.

"He's only about 40 per cent of the fighter he could be," Bright said.

"When you're an amateur you look at the heavyweight champion and think wow, that looks like perfection. But then you get to be the heavyweight champion of the world and that's just another plateau."

Bright said Tyson was now back on track, sparring seven to eight rounds, six days a week, and looked great in a workout on Sunday.

If so, that would be a contrast to Tyson's uninspired sparring session last week when reporters were allowed into the gym to watch the workout.

Tyson, who has shed much of the extra 30 pounds (13.6 kg) he had put on since the Spinks fight last June, seemed to be just going through the motions in that tiring session.

"He was terrible (last week)," Bright said, "and I told him he was."

"But he's doing things now

that you just wouldn't believe."

Meanwhile, actress Robin Givens has signed a divorce agreement that will end her stormy marriage to Tyson, her attorney said.

They plan to file for divorce in the Dominican Republic and the divorce should be final within 45 days, lawyer Raoul Felder said yesterday.

A no-fault divorce—in which both parties agree that they should be divorced—can be obtained in the Dominican Republic by either husband or wife following an overnight stay in the country, said Felder.

Residency requirements are more stringent in other places, he said.

"Theoretically, either one of them could go there tomorrow and get it," he said.

Divorce

However, he said, because both of them have prior commitments, the Dominican divorce will not be sought until at least 30 days from now.

Felder described the agreement, which Tyson signed last week and Givens signed Sunday night, this way: "Basically, she will keep what was hers, including all of her jewellery, and he will keep what is his."

Felder declined to discuss the settlement in detail. Asked who would get the couple's New Jersey mansion, he said, "she never wanted it."

Coach admits part in attempt to beat drug test

MONTREAL, Feb. 7, (Reuters): A former assistant coach with Canada's weightlifting team yesterday admitted to giving his urine to an athlete in a field attempt to beat a drug test before the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

Raphael Zuffellato told an inquiry looking into the use of drugs by Canadian amateur athletes that he gave his urine to lifter David Bolduc, who was threatening suicide after learning he would have to undergo a test he was sure to fail because he had used a banned substance.

"Once I saw this boy in such a depressed condition I said I had to do something for him," said Zuffellato, adding Bolduc was lying on his bed, "crying like a baby."

Testified

Bolduc and two other Canadian weightlifters, Parjit Gill and Jacques Demers, have testified they allowed urine to be injected into their bladder before the testing last September in Vancouver. The scam was unsuccessful, however, and the three were thrown off the team before the Olympics.

Zuffellato denied telling Demers that national coach Andrej Kulesza also furnished urine for the scam aimed at hiding the use of anabolic steroids by the weightlifters.

"I never said that," Zuffellato, 58, told Justice Charles Dubin, who is heading the inquiry.

SPORTS BRIEFS

McEnroe wins

TORONTO, Feb 7, (AP): John McEnroe defeated Jimmy Connors 6-3, 2-6, 6-3 last night in an exhibition tennis match at Maple Leaf Gardens. In another match, Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union trounced American Tracy Austin, a former star who left the game in 1981 with a back ailment and now is attempting a comeback, by 6-3, 6-4.

High standards

LONDON, Feb 7, (Reuters): A British government department has stopped Yugoslav defender Milos Drizic joining First Division Southampton after England's soccer authorities said he did not meet their high standards.

Indianapolis 500

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb 7, (AP): The Indianapolis Motor Speedway has mailed invitations to 36 racing teams expected to enter cars in the May 28 Indianapolis 500. More than 90 entries, including cars for defending champion Rick Mears and eight other former winners, are expected by the April 3 deadline.

Greece triumph

PATRAS, Greece, Feb 7, (AP): Greece beat England 1-0 today in an under-21 exhibition soccer match held in this southern port city. Striker Issak Moustakidis, a rising star from First Division Olympiakos Piraeus, scored off a penalty in the 31st minute.

Swiss goalkeeper

GENEVA, Feb 7, (Reuters): Swiss national goalkeeper Joel Corninboeuf said today he needed surgery for torn knee ligaments and would be out of action for several months.

Somali players

NAIROBI, Feb 7, (Reuters): Seven Somali soccer players, in Nairobi for a regional tournament, have applied for political asylum in Kenya, a spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said today.

World Cup

FEISTRITZ, Austria, Feb 7, (AP): Norway's Eirik Kvallfoss won the 20 kilometre event at the World Cup biathlon today in 58 minutes 13 seconds.

Grand Prix

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands, Feb 7, (AP): Second seed Jakob Hlasek of West Germany yesterday advanced to the next round of the Nabisco Grand Prix tennis tournament by defeating Swede Tobias Svatonsson 7-6, 6-2.

Swim meet

BERLIN, Feb 7, (AP): Glen Housman of Australia defeated East German swimmer Carsten Kuhlmoegen in the 1,500-metre freestyle yesterday at the NOK International swim meet in East Berlin.

RESULTS

RESULTS of the SAS Bridge Club played on Sunday:
1st Nabil Akel & Lollo Murtiwaite
2nd Madge McKenzie & Nadia Araabi
3rd Rima Ayyad & Ghofran Mikail

Swedish star's adviser denies suicide attempt

Borg leaves hospital after treatment

MILAN, Feb 7, (Reuters): Former Swedish tennis star Bjorn Borg was treated in a Milan hospital today for an overdose of sleeping pills but his adviser denied speculation in the Italian media that he had tried to commit suicide.

Borg, who left the hospital after having his stomach pumped, told reporters with a smile: "I'm all right, it's all over."

In Stockholm his personal adviser, Ingmar Alverdal, told Swedish radio that Borg had been struck by stomach pains after a meal in a Milan restaurant last night.

"Borg took a couple of sleeping pills but didn't feel any better so he decided to go to hospital," Alverdal said.

"Borg is such a big name that even a perfectly normal hospital visit would spark this kind of rumour."

Accompanied by his Italian fiancée, singer Loredana Berté, Borg returned by taxi to their Milan apartment, where he spoke briefly to journalists before rushing inside.

Police and hospital doctors said Borg had taken an overdose of Roipnol, a sleeping pill and tranquilliser related to valium. Doctors said it was not a barbiturate as earlier reported.

Both police and doctors refused to comment on Italian media speculation that Borg had

BINGHAM WITHOUT FOUR FIRST CHOICE PLAYERS

N.Ireland bid to stop Spain



Butragueno: Spain's lone striker

BELFAST, Feb 7, (Reuters): Spain's impeccable qualifying group record faces a thorough examination tomorrow as Northern Ireland bid to rescue their own fast-fading World Cup hopes.

Top of European Group Six with three wins from three matches and yet to concede a goal in the qualifying campaign, Spain appear comfortably on course for next year's finals in Italy.

Stealing

But injury-hit Northern Ireland are stealing themselves for a do-or-die assault on the group leaders to keep alive their own slim prospects.

"It would be very difficult to qualify if we don't win this one but teams mightier than Spain have been put to the sword in Belfast," Northern Ireland manager Billy Bingham said.

Spanish confidence is riding high at present following their 4-0 win over Northern Ireland in Seville in December and the 2-0

triumph in Malta last month.

But Bingham said: "They are the favourites but I don't think they'll travel well. I detected that in Malta — they didn't show the same attacking policy they use at home."

"They can be absolutely devastating. But I think they might lose a bit of heart if we contain them early on."

Spain have scored eight goals in their three matches but coach Luis Suarez looks likely to send out a side whose priority is to defend with five men strung across the back and Real Madrid's Emilio Butragueno the lone striker.

His squad contains three changes to the party which travelled to Valleria. Fernando Hierro and Jose Diurrun are two newcomers to the international scene who are almost certainly along for the experience but Jose Bakero and Miguel Chendo could play more significant roles in a four-man midfield designed to stifle the Irish.

Scotland look to McInally

LIMASSOL, Cyprus, Feb 7, (Reuters): Scotland may rely on sharp-shooting newcomer Alan McInally to lead them in pursuit of a scoring spree against the part-timers of Cyprus in their World Cup qualifying match tomorrow.

Uncapped McInally's lethal touch in front of goal could prove vital if the Scots are to crush the whipping-boys of European Group Five and displace table-topping Yugoslavia.

Healthy

Second in the standings with three points from two matches, the Scots need to win by a healthy margin. They trail the Yugoslavs by two points and have a significantly inferior goal difference.

Consequently McInally, the English First Division's leading scorer, seems certain to be awarded his first full cap as the Scots go all out for goals.

"This is an appropriate game to bring in McInally," Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh said

when he named the Aston Villa striker in his squad last week. "We must have someone in attack who is capable in the air and Cyprus appear vulnerable in that department."

McInally's place in the side seems all the more likely with doubts surrounding the fitness of Manchester United striker Brian McClair.

But Roxburgh is stressing the need for care as the Cypriots can pack a surprise. Last October they held troubled France to a 1-1 draw at home and Roxburgh said today: "We have to treat small countries with respect."

"They don't have the quality players like Italy and Germany and so on but at home they're in a position to create problems for any team," he added.

Cypriot coach Panikos Iacovou's side has been weakened by mid-week Cup ties. Yet he insists his team, which has scored just once in three games and conceded eight goals, is capable of pulling off another

upset. "We know the difference between professionals and amateurs but football is probably the only sport where the weak can beat the strong," said Iacovou, who has passed a Scottish FA coaching course.

Limassol's hard, uneven pitch will also assist the hosts but Scottish skipper Roy Aitken said his side's superior pace could hold the key.

"We must get wired in and show some old Scottish passion in order to get the result we want. Andy Roxburgh has stressed that if we slow the game down it will suit the Cypriots perfectly," he said.

Teams:

Cyprus: to be announced.
Scotland (from): Leighton, Goram, Gunn, Gough, McLeish, Malpas, Narey, Nicol, Aitken, D. Ferguson, I. Ferguson, Galloway, MacLeod, McStay, Gallacher, Johnston, McClair, McInally, Nicholas, Speedie.

Injury-hit PSV face uphill battle against Mechelen

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands, Feb 7, (Reuters): Depleted PSV Eindhoven must throw caution to the wind tomorrow in a bid to overturn a 3-0 deficit and snatch the European Super Cup from underdogs Mechelen.

The injury-hit European champions, surprisingly overwhelmed by the Belgians in last week's first leg, will be without Dutch international goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen and three other regulars when they host the return leg.

Remedy

"We will try to forget about what happened in the first leg," PSV manager Kees Ploegsma told Reuters. "We played with-

out enough concentration. We will try to remedy that but it will be a difficult match."

The Dutch champions and League leaders will also be without striker Wim Kieft, Ivan Nielsen and newly acquired Czechoslovak libero Jozef Chovanec. But Danish defender Jan Heintze returns after missing the first leg.

But PSV's chances of overhauling the European Cup winners' Cup holders are not good.

The Belgians have scored 16 goals in their last four matches and have indicated they will not be lulled into a false sense of security by their handsome advantage.

Duncan crashes out of Open

GUARUJA, Brazil, Feb 7, (Reuters): Second-seeded American Lawson Duncan crashed out of the \$130,000 Guaruja Open tennis tournament with a first round, straight set loss to little-known Swede Christer Allgardh yesterday.

Duncan, ranked 58 in the world, started strong, but after dropping a tight first set 7-5, he appeared to simply give up. Allgardh cruised through the second set without the loss of a game.

Argentina's Javier Frana, winner of last year's Rio de Janeiro Open and a finalist at Intaparica, became the second seeded player to fall yesterday.

American Jimmy Brown rallied to eliminate the sixth-seeded Argentine 4-6 6-2 6-3.

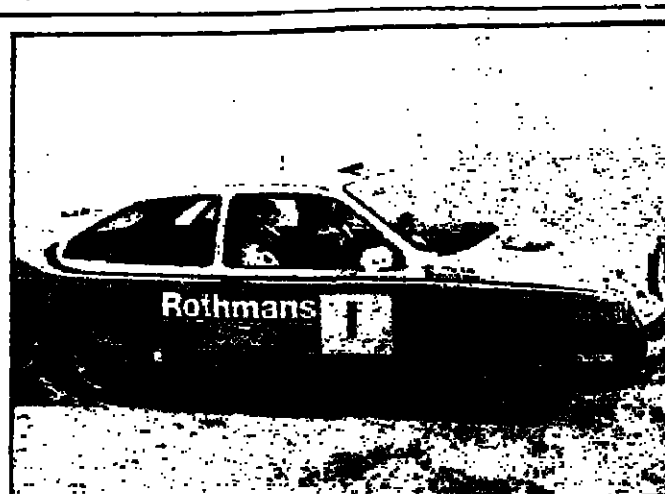
W.German clubs win in court

FRANKFURT, Feb 7, (Reuters): West German Second Division soccer club FC Homburg today won a court decision allowing a condom advertisement on its players' shirts.

A Frankfurt civil court ruled the advertisement did not offend public morals, overturning a court ban won last April by the German Football Association.

The court said public ethics were the same in sport as in the rest of society, noting that the federal Health Ministry openly advocated the use of condoms as a means of reducing the risk of catching AIDS.

FC Homburg hopes to make 200,000 marks (\$120,000) by the shirts displaying the condom brand name next to an oval ring.



Saeed Al Hajri in his Ford Sierra Cosworth

Al Hajri determined to win Qatar Rally

DOHA: By the time Rothmans star Saeed Al Hajri drives up to the start line of the 1989 Qatar International Rally in his new Group A Ford Sierra Cosworth, he will have already completed the equivalent of six rallies.

More than 2,500 kms of gruelling car testing has left the Qatari and his British co-driver Steve Bond brimming with confidence.

Pleased

"The Rothmans Ford has stood up well to very heavy punishment and I'm very pleased with it," he said. "Frankly, I'm surprised at how good it is and how well it has responded to some very harsh treatment."

The Qatar Rally, sponsored by Nasser bin Khalid and Sons, is the first round of the 1989 FISA Middle East Championship and Al Hajri is optimistic about achieving victory on his home ground.

"I was beaten by punctures last year in the Audi but this time I'm determined to win. The car is much sturdier than I expected and it flies over the bumps."

With the older, more powerful Group B cars

barred from scoring championship points, the Rothmans Rally Team has abandoned the Audi which promised much at the start of last year but failed to deliver a single victory.

The team was joined last week by a Ford engineer from Britain who conducted a series of computerised tests using temperature sensors. As a result, adjustments have been made to the cooling systems.

"This season, we've switched to Mobil oil and with the adjustments we've been able to achieve a 20 per cent reduction of the temperature in the differential," said Bond.

Fitted

Although Group A cars are generally more fragile than the Group B "monsters" the Rothmans Ford has been fitted with a Safari-spec body shell and the floor and supports have been strengthened.

The team has also amassed a stock of 80 tyres for the event to permit frequent changes that should reduce the risk of punctures.

The two-day rally begins tomorrow from the Doha Corniche.

Timman beats Portisch in fifth game

ANTWERP, Belgium, Feb 7, (AP): Holland's Jan Timman fought back from a losing position with black yesterday to win the fifth game in his World Chess Championship candidates quarterfinal against Hungary's Lajos Portisch.

With only one game to go, Timman's victory tied the score at 2.5-2.5. Portisch won the third encounter in the six-game match last week, while the other three games played so far ended in draws.

The 37-year-old Dutchman's performance in yesterday's action was not of the kind that will earn him a place in chess theory books.

Needing at least a draw to keep alive his chances against the 51-year-old Hungarian, Timman chose a somewhat unusual variation of the modern defence in an apparent effort to offset his opponent's opening advantage.

But Portisch, one of the world's greatest opening theoreticians, played as if he had seen it all before.

With a series of strong, confident moves, he built up a vastly superior position, sacrificing an exchange to blast a trail for his centre pawns on their advance to eventual promotion.

Studied

"My God," was all Timman's West German second, Vlastimil Hort, could say when he studied the position after the first twenty moves.

For ten moves, however, the Hungarian did just fine, steadily working on his pawn advance and increasing the pressure on black's hedged-in troops.

But when the crucial moment came and one of his advanced pawns was on the verge of reaching the eighth rank, Portisch made a serious error, allowing Timman to return the exchange and even out completely.

A few moves later, it was Timman who had the upper hand, and he made no mistakes.

**Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Jarallah,
Sulaiman Abdulaziz Al Jarallah
and
Mishal Ahmed Abdulaziz Al Jarallah**
express their deepest sympathies to
Yousuf Saleh Al Alyan
on the passing away of his
beloved mother

May her soul rest in peace